GOVERNMENT RULES

...OK ?

Reality Now PO Box 6326 Stn. A , Toronto Ontario, Canada M5W 1P7

REALITY NOW

Issue Six
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Two Dollars

DISSIDENT NEWS

ANTI-AUTHORITARIAN NEWS NETWORK

ISSUE 21

REALITY NOW

NEVER GIVE UP

" The forest is so beautiful , and Nature is very strong. Stand strong warriors of the spirit, with the pride of the wind, and the warmth of the sun. As the earth moves to the turn of each day, the animals still roam, and the plant life does grow as it has been, and will forever. Honour this life and this growth for our struggle is the same. The wheels and machines we have built churn and turn and mutilate our flesh, our forest, our lives. We must and will protect this life from the rape of these machines.

*For defense of life on Earth .... **REALITY NOW!!***

Hi, ☺, as you can see we've managed to finish issue six at last. Much has changed since issue five, mostly for the better. We come to you this time much more together and stronger than we did last issue, we sincerely hope you have grown as much in the same period.

Last issue we mentioned setting up a prisoner support group based on the Anarchist Black Cross model. Since then we have managed to make this reality and are now in operation. For information on what we are and what we do, see the section on the **Toronto Anarchist Black Cross** on page 3 . We are now interested in getting together some sort of anti-sexism action group in Toronto. If any of you reading this are sick to death of pornography, rape, patriarchy and misogyny and want to join with other angry people, please contact us at **RN**.

You'll notice that this is a special issue in that we have joined with **Dissident News** (formerly the **Anti-Authoritarian News Network Bulletin**). Together we felt we could provide you with more information than ever before and, as the **ABC**, we can also do more work for prisoners and the Toronto area movement as well.

Since our last issue we have recieved many more offers of help from new people, which has enabled us to increase our work again. This issue was put out thanks to the combined efforts of all of these people, and we offer them our deepest gratitude. Assistance is still needed in the form of money, word processing, articles, drawings, distribution, equipment and people, so if you can help, please do. Special thanks again go to **Bulldozer**, who have helped us incredibly (they are responsible, along with the **No-Name Computer Collective**, for this new typeface). Sadly enough, they will only be doing one last issue of Bulldozer, which should be out soon. For more information, check out their ad later in this issue. Thanks also go to anyone who printed our ad for last issue (ie **Green Anarchist** etc).

Also this issue we've started offering **'Reality Now' t-shirts.** These are an important fundraiser for us and they also look really good so please buy one if you can. For more info see our ad later in this issue. With this issue we've published a special supplement of excellent poetry and artwork. This has been sent out to our subscribers as well as issue 3 of **'Front Line News'**, the **ALF** support group paper. Subscribers recieve extra information with each issue so now's the time to subscribe. The poetry booklet is available for others for a $1 donation (free to prisoners). Any of our subscribers who have moved or are planning to, please inform us. Also, any prisoners whose addresses are no longer valid, please get in touch.

While we're at it, we should mention that we've put together a small list of prisoners who want correspondence on page 15. *Please* write to these people if you can, any little bit of contact can really brighten up their day. Please take a look at **'Writing to Prisoners'** in **Dissident News** for some suggestions about writing. If you are a prisoner and want to be put on this list, send us a *short* write up on yourself and your current address. If you publish a magazine, could you please put these people on your mailing list? We are offering this service to prisoners who want support from the movement, and for it to be of any use it will require participation from both prisoners and people on the outside.

If you'd like to distribute **RN**, we love you. Not only that, but you can take a cut of the cover price. Please write and tell us how many you can get rid of.

We dedicate this issue to all those who have not compromised their ideals for personal gain or comfort, and who do more than mouth the words. And, with this new issue, we reaffirm our own dedication to change. Of course that's a simple enough statement for most people to make, but it is a difficult one to mean. A statement like that which is not backed up by actions is not even worth the time it takes to say it.

Hopefully by this point you are well aware just how fucked up our situation has become so we don't have to detail it here. What we do have to say is that there is some hope. We offer no guarantees that a non-coercive society will ever be arrived at, or that it is even possible at this point. None of us can say, but we can stress that **there is no good reason to give up**. The hopeless form the ranks of the 'good citizens'; the soldiers, police, the people who work all day and watch TV at night. We do not count ourselves among them. When we give up, when we do not actively challenge our modern existence, we *support* this society, we support genocide, because it lives on our apathy. Without the millions of hopeless people, it could not survive. It's been said before: if you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem.

Many people we have known over the years have stopped resisting, often to 'concentrate on themselves'. Their theory is that they can be of no use to the rest of the world until they feel better themselves. There is some truth to this statement, but in practice it is merely an epitaph for another activist. We cannot think of many who have taken this direction and then returned to a less selfish position. Although we all need to work on ourselves and on our own lives, we feel that this, as in all things, should be done in the context of freeing your mind and self from the grips of conditioning, with the emphasis being on **increasing** your potential or abitlity to act on situations. How can our lives be separate from the struggles we must face ? We are involved in them **whether we like it or not**, no matter who we are or where we live.

In fact the very notion of 'concentrating (solely) on ourselves' is a luxury we here in the middle class of the industrial world feel much too justified in taking. Many people don't share our option. Their lives are visibly threatened by the war. We can turn it off, look away ... they can't. More often, people take up struggle not out of choice but necessity. That is usually the case in 'third world' nations like **El Salvador** or **East Timor**. Revolution is a pre-requisite for *survival*. Here in the industrial world there are those who take up struggle because of deep personal conviction or a strong sense of justice. There are those who struggle because they cannot turn away from the problem. But for the most part struggle is taken less seriously because most people do not feel the blunt necessity of it. The fact is, most people can *choose* to resist or not.

While we fully believe in making free choices, this is not a matter to be taken so lightly. **We have no choice**. There is a saying, 'We who believe in freedom cannot rest until it comes'. It's true. We can only assume that those who choose apathy do not believe in freedom.

It would seem obvious that this 'humanity' has taken us from the life-positive, harmonious balance with nature which was our existence, to the metropolitan *con*-cretes of body, mind and soul, where we struggle for truth and life while living in 'homes', walking on concrete, riding on transport (which is conveniently protected from trees, wind, rain, soil and other pagan things) to get to our 'places of labour' (or maybe labour camps). We go in order to recieve food and shelter through money, oh yes, and also to acquire microwaves, VCR's, fashion, and cruise missiles to satisfy our greed and meaningless existence. These keep us occupied until we are killed, we die (we are killed), or we begin to understand our own life-positive earth.

What this means is that while we find out who is doing what to who, where and by what methods and motives, and **acting** against these, we must not deny ourselves clarity by just concentrating on the horrible injustices of today, but also celebrate **life**, our nature of existence (our true selves), our small victories and communications, and of course the earth. By developing or learning more about the earth (our natural environment), and how to live *with* it, we will be able to have a better appreciation and respect for that which we seek to obtain; peace, freedom, and equality. All of which the cycle of life and death *naturally* consist of. And it is those who destroy this cycle, this planet and its inhabitants, who we must **confront**.

To tackle such a huge task we're going to have to make a *daily* commitment to change. For many, social change is a spare-time hobby. We feel that if any sort of

strong movement is going to be built anywhere, it will require that we consider the struggle as our **lives**, and work as such. This means that we must live non-violently, setting examples, offering alternatives in the ways we relate to each other, and offering each other help and hope in dealing with this world. Secondly, it means dedicating our time and energy to life-positive projects as much as possible, dreaming up and **carrying out** new and effective ways of challenging power and the powerful on every level. How can we expect to get anywhere if each and every one of us hasn't given this kind of dedication to our struggles? Without such a commitment we will be stuck simply treading water while the tide of fascism overtakes us. This means that **you** are being asked to consider **your own** involvement and ***GET TO IT***.

We must learn how to heal the earth, in the clearest and most effective ways, in the short time that we have. We must be able to see the difference between life-positive and life-negative actions and effects. Our existence is life, but our support for the death merchants carries a heavy toll -- the increasingly devastating impact of the power and death culture. It perpetuates the emptiness in our own lives and the violence to, and destruction of our people. We are a part of the Almighty Amerikkkan Imperialist Machine, and contribute to the **genocide** of our own people, and people's struggles for self-determination and independence in the 'third world'. In a true sense, *we dig each other's graves.*

Now what's this about fascism? In the early days of Hitler's fascist regime no one seemed to realize the extent of the problem. Even when he became very powerful the number of people in Germany and occupied countries dedicated to resistance were a mere handful compared to the number of people who physically and mentally supported him.

We don't want to 'cry wolf', but it's time to take a good look at **America**. There is no question that America's aim is world control at any cost. Nuclear weapons, persistant and brutal 'third world' intervention, suppression of civil dissent and control of its many puppet governments (ie Canada) around the world; what *more* evidence do we need? The lesson they are teaching the world is: 'Stand in our way and we will **crush** you'. America will pursue world control *at any cost*, it will destroy **all** peoples self determination and fly its banner of 'freedom and democracy' over the dying body of **our earth**. And we have no doubt that the Soviet State has its own flag of 'freedom' ready and waiting to stake similar claims. **Fascism** is alive and well and killing our world, more determined and more brutal *than ever before*.

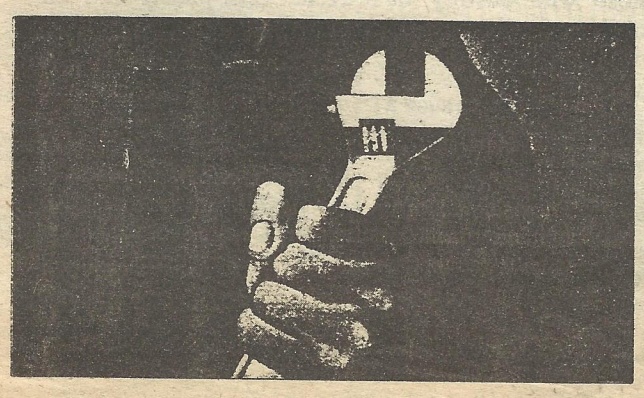
It seems quite clear to us that the Canadian government and businesses want to **help** U.S. government and business control and dominate much of this world. Canada offers and creates a political cushion of confused, subservient people, and also holds and maintains a collective fatherland with the U.S. of corporate exploitation and military build up in order to carry out their conspiracy of 'third world' genocide. Any city in North America holds these corporate/military conspirators who **safely** plan, build and execute systems and material methods of control and rape of all people, and of the earth.

Canada has taken up the role of a puppet state with glee and 'all American' enthusiasm. We were told to allow cruise testing in Alberta so that the US would be friendlier towards us and listen to our 'demands' for 'peace'. What kind of fools do they think we are? By now, after several years of cruise tests and **no** further agreements with the US on acid rain or nuclear arms, we should realize that we are being used, by the US and our own government, to expand their empire. In fact, if anything, we have become more and more militarized by the US, NATO, and our own government, not less. Our situation has **worsened**. No doubt our 'leaders' know this, yet their business allies welcome the militarization of Canada for profits' sake. We don't.

The Liberal Party of Canada, who originally signed the agreement to let US Cruise missiles be tested over Native territory in Alberta, have since (from their safe standpoint as 'opposition') claimed to be against cruise missile testing. What are we to believe?

The Ontario government, made up of the Liberal and New Democratic parties, have now agreed to continue the construction of **Darlington Nuclear Power Staion** (which will be, upon completion, the biggest nuclear power plant in the world, located near Toronto) despite the obvious futility and danger of it. Despite the fact that they **both** originally ran for office on a platform advocating the discontinuation of Darlington. What are we to believe?

Believe this: *all* governments and politicians will lie and con us, sooner or later, to maintain and expand their power. How foolish we would be to put any trust in those who have their own interests at heart.



WHAT WE AIM TO DO

We would like to offer information based on clear thought, emotions, and facts which gives each person opportunities for action. Rather than just giving people more to deal with, we'd like to suggest directions and focuses for our community and constant evaluation of our best tactics and ideas. Also we wish to show examples of other people and projects which may be of some inspiration to our readers.

Our strong focus on prisons and prisoners is based on the belief that not only are prisons a sickening disease to be attacked, but that those imprisoned in them, especially political prisoners and POWs, have much to offer us all in the way of information and experience with struggle. These people can offer us all inspiration in their resistance to brutal and unbearable conditions, and we can help them by giving them the solidarity they need to do this.

Our focus on many Native struggles is based on the belief that the Native people of North America also have much to offer. Native people have the longest history of struggle on this continent, from the time the Europeans landed and began their destructive practices here until the present. As such, we have much to learn from them about belief, resistance, survival and dedication. Much of the philosophy the Native people of North America try to live by is based on a deep connection and respect for our Mother Earth. What we have to offer them is our solidarity and our dedication and respect for this land.

We add to this our own experience of struggle and solidarity, often from a young person's perspective as most of us are young. We wish to continue publishing information designed to advance and broaden our struggles and the struggles of anarchists and oppressed people worldwide, based on an anarchist feminist *activist* point of view.

This society is trying to silence all of these people, all dissent, through its prisons, mental hospitals, armies and police. We can only hope that through our work we can thwart their attempts to crush us, keep us quiet. We hope we have and can continue to accomplish this.

In the name of 'God', or of consumer *masterbation*, it doesn't matter all that much why these things are happening. In this vastly confusing neo-fascist, suicidal, technocratic 'humanity', we feel that right now, instead of concentrating on 'sorting it out', we identify, expose, and act against these people and machines who very directly **build** the weapons, **feed** the apathy, **make** the plans, and **perpetuate** this **genocidal** situation.

These weapons, the apathy and the plans take on many different forms and are not so easily identifiable sometimes, even in the most obvious of circumstances. Since the vast majority of us who live in this industrial 'first world' haven't the slightest clue as to how to live in, or see clearly what our natural environment or existence is, we can only conclude that we are very much manipulated, conditioned and controlled inheritors of the earth.

Life in the city means a *physical* separation from the earth, and a struggle of *spiritual* and *mental* separation from it as well. This is enhanced by our constant intake, voluntarily or otherwise, of propoganda, toxins, drugs and alcohol, which only maintains our submissiveness, divisions and destructiveness and makes us reactionary in our actions and thoughts.

A Beginning in an End. Routine and conditioning are major obstacles in separating thoughts, developing a belief in ourselves, and understanding the circle of life. But by thinking twice, or looking at things in different ways (two sides of a whole), we can begin to understand **why** we do things that are harmful or not beneficial to ourselves or other living things.

For example: Why am I doing this, drinking this, smoking this, thinking this, watching this, buying this, eating this, acting this way, and what for?

While living in North American cities is full of contradictions simply in being alive, the '*second thought*' or the questioning of our actions and thoughts in our daily existence, and acting on and changing things that fuck us up, or are unnecessary, can help us to understand and work out personal obstacles, communication, solidarity, what we can achieve, and what we really want.

Many of these things at a second glance are very obvious, but may be difficult to break out of because of routine, an inability to gather the personal strength needed, or addiction. But without a serious attempt at this questioning and changing, we are left in our own pits, struggling to get out, not realizing that it is **our own choice** to leave the pit behind by **pushing ourselves** out. To learn the lessons of this or these experiences is very important so that you don't end up back in your own trap. Whether the traps are drugs, alchohol, ego, past experience, or personal habits, an understanding of what and why we do things and in which direction we (you/me) want to go, can help us to work and live together cooperatively.

And working together is the key to our future success. Now that **NATO** wants to expand its use of Canada, we must be careful not to make the same mistakes we made in challenging the cruise tests. We failed primarily due to futile and symbolic methods which failed to address the underlying problem: our own powerlessness. We never had a chance to stop the test agreement because only a strong, versatile and united movement could have succesfully challenged their power game. If the government wants testing, **they will have it**. Our failure to realize the real nature of the problem was instrumental in our failure to successfully challenge and hold back the American empire. Our nation (and most others) was built on the genocide of an entire culture, that of the Native people, and that destruction **continues** to this day. We're not dealing with people who want to do 'what the people want', we're dealing with people who do *as much as they can get away with.* We are **through** asking them politely to give up their weapons; they *need*

them to maintain power and they **will not** give them up because of our petitions. But though their genocidal plan moves ahead at an alarming rate, we aren't dead yet. We **must move on**.

Unity, real unity, is instrumental in the building of a strong movement. Working together can often be a difficult process, but we maintain that it is both possible and necessary. **'Dissident News'** and ourselves are both strengthened by working together: by drawing on each others' resources we have managed to increase our effectiveness many times.

But sometimes it's difficult to draw the line of who we should work with and who not to. One thing we have recieved criticism for is our support for socialist or communist political prisoners. Generally we are told that their aims are contrary to ours and thus we shouldn't support them. We do, none the less, give critical support to people like the **Ohio 7**, simply because everytime the State is aloud to silence another voice, they gain all that much more power. Similarily, we do not feel that at the moment we have the right to claim moral superiority over people who are engaged in similar survival struggles. To ignore these prisoners is like running a food bank for only those poor who believe what you do.

Anarchy is an ideal which needs no theoretical defense; who can argue that a world without bosses, a world at peace, is undesirable? We do not work with high hopes, unfortunately, of ever seeing an anarchist society, much as we'd like to. We feel that we, and other groups, should be judged by their **actions**, not what's in their heads (as actions we include how we relate to people). We are now engaged in much more than a theoretical struggle, we are engaged in a struggle for *survival*. We do what we do because it's necessary and whether or not we can reach total freedom has been made irrelevant by the sheer desperation of our situation. If we can manage to defend our earth and people from the death culture we will simply keep on going, and all who want to come with us will. What is relevant at the moment is that our earth *is under attack*, and all of us with it. For now we will organize our defense. We will organize in non-hierarchical ways and use non-hierachical means beacause we understand them to be the only free way of organizing, the only real alternative to the powerlessness we are given in this society. For now, we will support people whose actions are **positive** and **effective** in our defense.

When you rise, we shine.

. . . But until then we need a little help just managing a sparkle. **Reality Now** is an anti-statist magazine dedicated to exposing and confroning the people and institutions who control, attack and destroy our world and our people. We focus on prisons and prisoners, Native struggles, the youth movement and anarchist feminist and liberation struggles worldwide.

Our magazine survives on donations and subscriptions. You can help us out by sending $6 (in Canada) or $7 (international) for a 4 issue subscription along with your name and address. If you haven't already seen the magazine and want a sample, send $2 and we'll send you issue 6, or $3 for #5 and 6. Get in touch, smash the State, and have a nice day!

(please make cheques and money orders payable to **Reality Now**)

REALITY NOW. The magazine for conspiring minds.
P.O. Box 6326 Stn A, Toronto Ontario, M5W 1P7, Canada

Understanding the connections between our struggles here and in the 'third world' is essential right now, as groups like the **Ohio 7** have demonstrated. Solidarity with 'third world' struggles means more than a few sympathetic words. We live in the heart of the beast, so to speak. We are in a position where *our* actions and *our* educational work can mean the difference between survival and genocide for them. We can strike from within, the Trojan horse.

Identify the causes of misery both here and abroad and **confront** them directly. Do what needs to be done yourself, rather than waitng for other people to do it. Most importantly, don't let fear get in your way. **Fear** is one of the major factors holding us back; we are afraid to look, see, hear, understand and act on this world around us. Fear of the State's reaction, be it imprisonment or another form of violence, is a sensible fear, but if it keeps us from taking necessary actions then we are already imprisoned. **Make your choice.**

In all of us exist differences. We must learn to respect these differences, and to question/trust, teach/learn, aid/be open to help and build a united solidarity that is life-positive, and can actively challenge the norms of present society. **Physically, spiritually** and **mentally.**

It is inspiring that both the 'left' and the 'right' equate 'anarchism' with **chaos**, or without order, because as far as we are concerned, government control or the control of the many by a few in the interests of profit, or political ideologies (profit), **has only**, and **can only** result in **genocide**. Instead of governmental rule we suggest chaos, or what could be called the **balance of life**. It could even be called human compassion, mutual cooperation, or **love**.

Reality Now.

TORONTO ANARCHIST BLACK CROSS STARTED

The **Toronto Anarchist Black Cross** is now a reality, thanks to the combined efforts of **Dissident News** and **Reality Now**. As an autonomous branch of the international ABC we function as a prisoners support group to aid in the defense of political prisoners and POWs in North America and around the world. We also work to support (and create) anarchist and other liberation struggles everywhere through solidarity, publicity and action around their situations.

What do we do? Well, we recently held our first demonstration at the Japanese consulate in Toronto in support of the Japanese political prisoner **Katsuhisa Omori**. We managed, with only a handful of demonstrators, to close down their consulate for the day.

We publish many things but mostly we focus on producing our magazines, **'Reality Now'** and **'Dissident News'**. We also publish a smaller news bulletin every two weeks called the **'Ecomedia Toronto Bulletin'** which is based mostly on transcripts from our radio show.

Also in store is a new issue of **'Bulldozer'**, an important prisoners' magazine. This will be the last issue of Bulldozer, unfortunately, but it will feature a special 'best of Bulldozer' section so it should not be missed! They should have it finished sometime soon.

Another important project is the **Ecomedia reports** on **CKLN 88.1 FM** radio. We are now broadcasting anarchist news reports every Tuesday and Friday between 11 AM and 12 noon, and Wednesday between 4 PM and 5 PM. If you live in the Toronto area, please give us a listen, and keep up to date on the worldwide and local anarchist movements.

Sometime soon we will be opening an anarchist bookstore in Toronto (tentatively called 'Solstice Books') which will also be the home of the ABC office. Please write or get in touch to find out more and to see how you can be involved.

All of these projects need input in the form of volunteers and money. Even if you can't give much, every little bit of help goes a long way. The radio shows will need a constant supply of information so if you're planning something we should know about, tell us, or if you can write a succinct report on a topic, please do and send it to us. The bookstore will need volunteers to staff it and contributions to keep it open And our leaflets and magazines take money and effort to produce, so please give us a hand.

We feel that all of these projects are invaluable in the building of a strong anarchist resistance movement in Toronto and its surroundings. If that sounds like a good thing to you, please get in touch with us and help get it together. If we're going to seriously resist the State and all authority, it's going to take your effort, your determination, and our solidarity to do it. Please get involved. Smash the State and have a peachy day!

Anarchist Black Cross
Reality Now
Anti-Authoritarian News Network

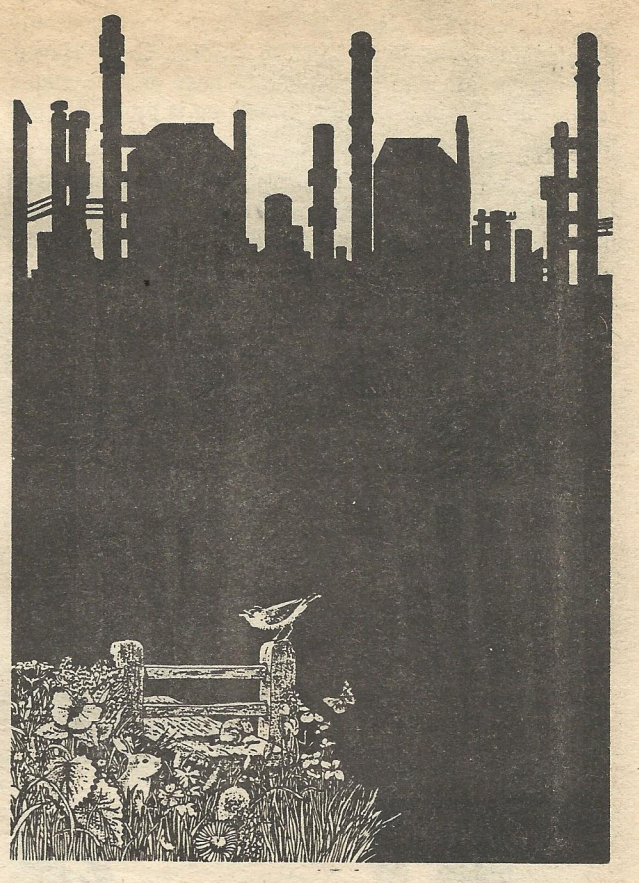
Write to the Anarchist Black Cross c/o **Reality Now**.

NOTE: There has been some talk of organizing a North American ABC. If you are interested, please write to the ***Survival Network Information Center*** *at their new address: PO Box 2576, San Diego, CA, 92112 USA.*

A MESSAGE FROM JIM TRIMBLE

After five long years in prison I'm writing to let people know that there are still death camps in this world, and in the same way the Nazis killed the Jews, I too am waiting to be killed. You see, I'm a Death Row inmate awaiting execution in the Maryland Gas Chamber which isn't much different than the Nazi gas chambers. Our government condemned what the Nazis did to the Jews and yet they approve and make it legal to have gas chambers and to execute - kill - their own people here in the United States.

From the age of 17 I've been sentenced to death, now at the age of 22 I still await my execution. My appeals are running out fast and I'm now closer than ever to the gas chamber. This is wrong, and I need your help. How long will you people sit back and do nothing? How long will it take you before you stand up and help me fight? I know nothing about how the law works, but I know that I've been given a strong taste of injustice. I'm



not guilty of any murder but I need a lawyer to help me prove this fact. Unfortunately legal help isn't cheap. I need bands to help me, put on benefit shows for me, and I need donations to help me get a lawyer. Donations no matter how large or small are greatly appreciated and should be in the form of a money order addressed to me. No cash is allowed. Letters are also welcome. Remember this: "No one of us is stronger than all of us" so please help me fight.

write to:

Jim Trimble 161658
954 Forrest street
Maryland Penitentiary
Baltimore Maryland
21202 USA

THE STATE OF THE ART

A prison within a prison describes it best. **Solitary confinement**, euphemistically called "special housing units" by prison officials, but more commonly known as "the box" and "the hole", are the final stop in any prison.

Inmates adjudged guilty of "serious" prison infractions by prison kangaroo tribunals are removed from the general population and confined in solitary. Such "serious" infractions run the gamut from possession of marijuana, cash, fist fighting, "shivs", refusing to work, taking extra food in the messhall, insubordination and inflammatory remarks, homemade hooch, to prison murder. This is in addition to any outside prosecution and additional prison time that may result. Even if outside charges are not pressed or an acquittal ensues, the supreme court has stated prison officials can still punish inmates administratively (the box), and usually do. This also includes parole denial and/or loss of "good time".

New York prison officials are in a relatively unique position, in that they literally have unfettered powers to place an inmate in solitary for one day to life (or as long as the inmate's sentence is for). Sentences range from several months to several years and are arbitrarily handed down. One man is currently serving a 15 year sentence in solitary confinement in New York State upon a prison murder conviction. The average "hit" is 12-18 months with 3-5 year box sentences relatively common.

While in solitary, prisoners are confined to a 6 foot by 8 foot unfurnished cell (except for a steel slab bunk welded to the cell wall), dank, dim, rat and vermin infested for 23-24 hours a day. The law requires one hour of exercise in the "out of doors", but this is honoured more in the breach than in the observance. When exercise is granted, it is usually in an open roofed cell known as a "**tiger cage**" or "**dog run**". This cell is approximately 8 feet by 10 feet with 4 solid concrete walls and bars on the roof. As the cells are never cleaned out, except when it rains, dirt and garbage and the stench of urine are ever present.

Needless to say, this "exercise" area is useless and after months and years, prisoner's muscles atrophy and health problems arise from the lack of cardio-vascular stimulus.

No access to religious services and virtually no access to legal materials is possible in the box, especially in infamous Attica, Clinton (Dannemora), Green Haven, Elmira, Auburn and Comstock. These are the states' "**maxi-maxi**" holes, where even talking is prohibited and punished.

Guard brutality is rampant, with unprovoked beatings and tear gassings a daily routine. As a result of these practices, closed-circuit monitors with recorders were ordered in many of these boxes. But several boxes refuse to install them, absent a court order or stipulation in pending civil rights lawsuits. These cameras would mean a great reduction in unjustified use of force for a permanent record of such assaults for outside police and court review would exist.

A typical day in the box in 1985 follows. **Attica** will be the focus, as it is representative of every maximum security prison in New York State (and most of America).

This significance cannot be lost, especially in view of Attica's bloody history, in large part based upon its brutal use of force and box conditions, as well as overt racism on the part of guards and denial of religious services and religious tolerance.

As a result of the Attica riot of 9-13 September, 1971, and the concomitant loss of life, a commission chaired by Dean Robert B. McKay released its report in September, 1972. It found, among other things, " . . . Attica is every prison, and every prison is Attica". (McKay at XII)

SCHEDULE

6 am

Two ear shattering bells announce the start of the day. This isn't necessary, as the lights burn 24 hours a day and sleep is most difficult, if not impossible.

7 am

The 7-3 shift arrives and announces its' presence by taking hammers and pipes and banging on the back steel walls of the cells for about 10 minutes. This is done solely to harass the prisoners greatly, and this is accomplished.

7:30 - 8 am

"**Chow**" (maximum security prisons *never* refer to meals as breakfast, lunch or dinner. Nor do you *eat* - you are *fed*) is fed. Half rations though outlawed, are given. Those on "**puppy chow**" (bread and cabbage diet, known officially as a "restrictive diet", usually given for 14-30 days as punishment, consists of a small portion of bread and shredded cabbage, 2-3 times a day only) receive their diet only after the guards stand in front of their cell and sing "puppy chow for a full year 'til the nigger/spic/etc., is full grown". The "puppy chow" usually smells of urine. Only guards handle the food in the box. Regular half-rations frequently have spit, pebbles and even glass in it. N.Y.S. Commissions of Corrections monitors have witnessed these events. At the end of "chow" approximately 10 minutes after it is served, all cups and bowls must be turned in. Failure to do so results in loss of the next meal "privilege". Therefore, no drinking of water or eating may be accomplished between meals, unless one uses his hands. Paper cups are not allowed either, for "security" reasons.

9 am

Prisoners are taken to the tiger cages, if the guards so desire. Prisoners must stick their arms through the cell bars and be handcuffed behind their backs before being let out of their cell. This is done solely to degrade and render the man helpless to defend himself against frequent "**goon squad**" assaults. The guards claim that the prisoners handcuffed behind the back, attack them. Approximately 10 guards will be present whenever one handcuffed inmate is taken out of his cell. After such "attacks" take place, the guards "restrain" the inmates with fists, feet and nightsticks, and in this "card game", clubs are trump. Medical attention is then rendered 2-4 hours later, if at all. It is your choice of treatment - Tylenol or aspirin. *Time* will heal the wounds, *hopefully.*

12 pm & 3 pm

"Chow" is fed again. All meals are fed in one 8 hour shift for the guards' convenience. This violates prison rules and leaves one without half-rations for about 17 hours.

3 pm - 4 pm

Outgoing mail is picked up, if the guards wish to do so. It's supposed to be picked up and delivered daily, but 3-4 times a week is the practice. This applies to legal and attorney's as well as general mail. Mail is a crucial means of communication with courts and loved ones and is a right. It is also one of the commonest reasons lawsuits are initiated against the prisons and for which the prisons are often held liable. Yet the practice continues, as the legal achievements are often pyrrhic victories - courts rarely assess personal damages against prison officials, or even the state.

5 pm - 7 pm

Once a week, showers, shaving gear, toilet paper, toothpaste and changes of underwear and clothing are provided. These "priviledges" are frequently denied by the guards with medical staff approval. They log it as "inmate refuses shower, toilet paper, etc.". Should one run out of toilet paper during the week,, the guards may issue 5-8 sheets. They frequently inquire "Why do you want it?" and laugh.

This ends the days' "programming". The cycle continues indefinitely for months and years on end.

PHYSICAL PLANT

The box windows are left open and broken in the cold months, and sealed during the hot months. Feces and urine thrown by guards and inmates at each other (each side says the other threw first, but this is hard if not impossible to determine), litter the floors in front of the cells, known as galleries. The waste matter is left on the floor for days at a time before it is cleaned up. The guards refer to it as "brown trout floating downstream" and take glee in making inmates live with the odour. Medical staff making quick perfunctory walkthrough rounds daily, simply sidestep the mess and the issue. Only when Albany officials make "surprise visits" (notification is given to the facility 7-14 days in advance) is the mess cleaned up and full rations issued that day only.

A COMPARISON

The average decent citizen knows nothing about the punitive practices and onerous conditions which box inmates are helpless prey to, and which really must be seen and smelled to be believed.

By contrast, the federal prison system, never considered "easy", has strictly defined periods of box sentences, which rarely exceeds 90 days (few people having spent one day in solitary would consider even 90 days a lenient sentence). The federal prison system allows daily showers and toilet articles, and true exercise facilities. They pride themselves on cleanliness and providing minimum standards of humane treatment, both in spirit and by law.

THE CRUX OF THE MATTER

The major problem in New York's prison system is **overt racism**. While the vast preponderance of the prison population is black, hispanic and other minority Americans, with a single possible exception, in terms of *actual* decision making, **not one** black or hispanic serves at a policy-making level in the New York prison system. And the only remaining black parole commissioner has suffered blatant harassment as a result of his enlightened views.

This condition should come as no surprise, considering a recent statement by state prison chief Thomas Coughlin III, who told an Albany newspaper reporter "the people who commit crimes in this state are blacks and hispanics". This non-thinking, provincial and racist comment does not lend itself to wide discussion or even warrant a defense. Suffice to say that any group of people, denied equal educational, housing and employment opportunities will fill the prisons, as countless waves of immigrants and disadvantaged people have found out.

What *does* require soulful thought was governor Cuomo's response to Coughlin's remarks. Our state's chief executive said "I believe he tried to explain it (the problem) in a sympathetic way without knowing what he said."

One might now question what governor Cuomo considers "sympathetic". Furthermore, commissioner Coughlin is paid good money to know what he says, does and condones. If he doesn't, he shouldn't have the job.

Nor should our state's chief executive countenance such malfeasance.

Messrs. Coughlin and Cuomo are intimately aware of the deplorable box and prison conditions. Both have read and rejected at least three independent reports critical of these conditions, put out by the Correctional Association of New York, Prisoner's Legal Services, and the New York State Commission of Correction. In fact, the Commission of Correction has felt that the brutality problem has reached such epidemic proportions at Attica, that it has utilized its mandated powers to station full-time observers in Attica's box since April of 1984, until such time as closed-circuit video monitors are installed.

If only one of these reports/groups were at odds with Coughlin's lauding assessments of the prison system, one might give the benefit of the doubt to Coughlin et. al. But where three conservative independent groups/reports reach the same conclusion, the doubts must increase as to the prison officials credibility, to say the least.

If prosecutors and legislators complain that "people don't get corrected in prison", it might be time to examine the mechanisms employed by said systems. The box is the backbone of any prison system, and prisons are the backbone of any criminal justice-penal system. To assure even a modicum of success, one must improve and employ the state of the art in correctional systems and management. And not for just a few show-case prisons for "meatball" cases and ex-cops and politicians and lawyers, etc., who ran afoul of the law.

Showers, toilet paper, soap, toothpaste, exercise, etc., should not be issues for New York's prison management in 1985. Education and marketable relevant job skills should be.

In 1972, the McKay Commission examined most if not all of these problems, with poignant insight it said:

"Examined separately, many of the inadequacies and frustrations of inmates may appear insignificant. But their cumulative impact created a dehumanizing environment. There was no meaningful programming, employment training, psychological help or drug rehabilitation; and there was no real effort to prepare inmates for society. If inmates were rehabilitated it was not because of Attica, but in spite of it". (McKay at 21)

Change the date on the report to 1986, and it still fits like a glove.

Ronald Davidson # 76A1166
Midstate Correctional Facility
Marcy, NY 13403 - 0216
USA

POLITICAL REPRESSION IN THE 80's

A brief summary of political trials during the past year gives some sense of how the criminal justice system is being used as a major tool of political counter-insurgency.

-- **New York**, 9 activists from the Black Liberation movement were arrested by the FBI and branded "a terrorist gang" and " criminal enterprise." They (the NY 8+) openly admitted that some of their political work was clandestine (in order to avoid just the type of repression they found themselves facing) and that they possessed weapons for self-defense but they denied any criminal conspiracy. The jury acquitted them all of conspiracy charges.

--**Chicago**, 4 Puerto Rican **Independistas** were charged with seditious conspiracy -- an impossible crime since Puerto Rico is internationally recognized as a colony illegally held by the U.S. But the U.S. has no inhibitions in breaking international law and the 4 were convicted after the judge essentially directed the verdict. The 3 patriots who proudly admitted their role as combatants in the Puerto Rican Independence movement were sentenced to 35 years each in prison.

--**Tucson, AZ**, 16 clergy and lay workers were charged for providing sancturary to Central American refugees. They weren't allowed to raise religious or political beliefs in court. The Justice Department claimed that it had nothing to do with politics and was simply another case of smuggling of illegal aliens.

--**New York**, 7 anti-imperialists face major conspiracy charges. Their arrests in Puerto Rico were accompanied by a raid by 250 FBI agents on a broad spectrum of pro-independence groups, periodicals and individuals.

There are more -- too many more. There are now over 100 political activists interned in U.S. prison: combatants of the **Black Liberation Army** and **FALN** who claim international status as prisoners of war; grand jury resisters from many different movements; North American revolutionaries active in armed clandestine resistance; **Plowshare** activists and **Sancturary** workers. They span the spectrum of progressive politics in this country but they are united by a belief in actively fighting against injustice. The U.S. government has adopted a strategy to criminalize all of them and the movements they are part of.

National oppression of Blacks, Puerto Ricans, Mexicans and Native Americans is an integral part of the formation of U.S. imperialism and has engendered powerful movements for human rights and self-determination. The FBI **COINTELPRO** program of the 60's and 70's focused on the Black Liberation struggle but all oppressed nationalities have been targetted. In the last several years, the Puerto Rican Independence movement has been particularly attacked by the FBI. What better way to deny the righteousness of these movements than by labeling them "terrorists" and criminalizing their most committed activists.

We All Live on Big Mountain

Big Mountain lies at the centre of the "Joint Use Area" reserved by treaty in 1882 to be shared by **Dineh** (Navajo) and **Hopi**. It is the ancestral home of more than ten thousand traditional Native People, who have lived here for centuries as shepherds and desert farmers, in harmony with the land and with each other. They regard this land as their spiritual centre, and themselves as its ordained custodians.

As of Monday, July 7, 1986, they became trespassers on this land.

Big Mountain is also the home of an immense wealth of uranium, coal, and other mineral resources. The big mining and utility companies want access to that wealth. To gain it, they joined forces with local politicians, P-R firms, lawyers, and a puppet "Hopi Tribal Council" to manipulate Congress into passing **US Public Law 93-531**, the **Navajo-Hopi Relocation Act** of 1974.

The Act is a mandate for the **forced removal** of an entire indigenous culture, whose religion and economy are rooted in their land. As such, it violates the 1948 UN Convention on Genocide, which the US Congress adopted in February 1986.

Forced relocation also violates the treaties by which the United States recognized the sovereignty of these lands, and the Native People's right to self-determination. In this sense, its implementations -- including confiscation of 80% of their livestock, as a direct and wilful amputation of their livelihood; bulldozing of all crops and wild vegetation from which they derive their food and medicine; destruction of housing, together with a ban on new construction and repair -- must be seen as **deliberate acts of war** against a sovereign nation.

Relocation shatters the economic self-sufficiency of the Native People, creating a new crop of refugees for our welfare rolls. They are displaced into cultural situations where they have no skills to survive. Most do not speak English and cannot get jobs. Half of those relocated have lost their tract-houses, many to unscrupulous loan and real-estate companies. Their rate of illness, depression and suicide is very high.

The traditional Navajo and Hopi are convinced they will perish if removed -- and twelve years tragic history seems to prove it. P.L. 93-531 is a prescription for **genocide**. And it's working. The remainder, who refuse to leave Big Mountain, are prepared to die on their sacred land rather than watch it be destroyed.

So the White Man is raping the Indians again. Why should today be any different?

Today should be different because we have just finished celebrating Liberty and Independence. We have saluted our flag and pledged ourselves to liberty and justice for all. We are quick to congratulate ourselves on our ideas of political and religious pluralism, and quick to judge others for lack of those ideals.

Yet in Arizona we deny the sovereignty of Native People who do not vote for "representatives." We ignore their religions, because their only cathedral, **Mother Earth**, is to us mere *real estate*, which we cheerfully propose to demolish.

And we cry out our indignation against **South Africa** for their racist ways, for confining their Native People to reservations, for keeping those reservations in poverty and submission.

The **Sandinistas** relocate 10,000 **Miskito** Indians away from combat zones, and President Reagan calls it genocide. The United States relocates 10,000 Navajo and Hopi, and President Reagan says he wants it done by the end of summer. (At least the Sandinistas have begun repatriating the Miskitos, to land that is still there. When **Black Mesa** is stripmined, it will be dead.)

Are these ideals of political or religious pluralism truly sacred to us, as the land is to the Hopi? Or are they just a good excuse for fireworks and a barbeque? Is our commitment to freedom of religion only useful up to the threshold of interference with a more dominant, unspoken religion -- the religion of **Material Progress**. Is it taboo, a "radical" idea, for us to consider simply leaving all that coal and uranium where it lay for millions of years?

If so, then we are fighting a losing battle -- and so is the rest of civilization.

The Native People say it is wrong to take all the coal from the Earth and burn it for fuel. And with all our scientists warning of the "greenhouse effect" and acid rain, we knock on wood and say they're just primitive.

The Hopi Faith predicts dire consequences as a result of the demise of their land and their people. They believe the balance of the Earth will be irrevocably disturbed, leading to floods, famine and ultimately the demise of all civilization.

It's easy to be the White Man. All you have to do is look the other way.

Some Useful Addresses:

Big Mountain Legal Defense/Offense Committee
2501 North 4th Street, Suite 18
Flagstaff, AZ 86001
(602-774-5233)

In Canada

C.A.S.N.P.
16 Spadina Rd
Toronto, Ont.

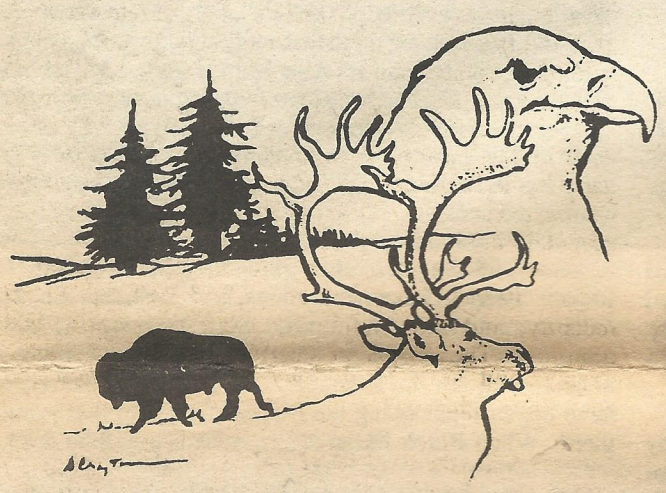
NATIVE NEWS

LOMPOC TRIBE OF FIVE FEATHERS

The Lompoc federal prison's native inmates are still struggling through lawsuits now in court, brought against prison authorities for violating **Constitutional Rights** of freedom of religion, and interfering with their mail. In not being allowed to wear religious headbands to the messhall many brothers are foregoing meals and getting only what small amounts they can afford from the commissary -- candy bars etc. And in the meantime their mail is stolen coming and going by the authorities trying to disrupt their outside support network.

Letters to Five Feathers Tribe send a strong signal to the prison pigs that support is there. Please write to the

Tribe of Five Feathers
Chairman Justin Wing #0067-064
USP Lompoc
3901 Klein Blvd.
Lompoc, California
93436 USA



CHEROKEE INDIAN RESERVATION

The US Department of Energy is now planning to locate nuclear waste dumps on the **Cherokee** Reservation in east North Carolina. This, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs move to cut school funds there, have convinced **Chief Robert Youngdeer** that there is a rising anti-Indian feeling in the US . . . Again.

URGENT!!!!!

Imagine losing your home, your possessions, your transportation and your job - all at once.

It happened to the people of the **Nishnawbe-Aski** nation at **Winisk** this spring. Flooding destroyed their Native community near Hudson's Bay, left 2 dead, and the rest of the community- 170 people homeless. They have lost everything including snowmobiles and the hunting and trapping equipment they must use to live by. Both federal and provincial governments are claiming credit and renouncing responsibility for aid, and the people, who need help **NOW** are falling between the cracks of the bureaucracy and are recieving nothing.

THEY HAVE NOTHING LEFT. They urgently need funds to replace everything before winter in order to survive. The people of the North responded more generously than any other sector of Canada to the Ethiopia Relief Fund. They showed love and sensitivity to the needs of their global family. Can we do any less for them?

To help: Tell others about the plight of the Winisk community, and urge them to send a donation to:

Nishnawbe/ Aski Nation
% 14 College St., 6th Floor
Toronto, Ont. M5G 1K2
Canada

(please do not send cash through the mail)
If you need more info, please call (416) 920-2376

BROTHERHOOD OF NATIVE AMERICAN INDIANS

Indian brothers in the great ping-pong alley, **Walla Walla** prison in Washington state express their solidarity and seek communication.
Write them at:

Brotherhood of Native American Indians
PO Box 520, MSC
Walla Walla, Washington
99362 USA

YELLOW THUNDER CAMP

Yellow Thunder Camp, a traditional **Lakota Sioux** camp organized by the American Indian Movement, won a court battle with the US Forest Service which had attempted to remove them from 800 acres in the **Black Hills**. The court ruled that the Lakota were discriminated against by the US Forest Service. A camp at Yellow Thunder is also planned for troubled Indian youth by **AIM**. Donations to this project, and messages of solidarity caan be sent through:

The Yellow Thunder Camp
Black Hills Lakota Nation
PO Box 9188
Rapid City, South Dakota
57709-9188 USA

STANDING DEER

Standing Deer was recently removed from federal prison and put into state prison in Oklahoma, to face old escape charges there. Upon his arrival, Standing Deer's head was shaved, which is a violation of Indian religion, his posessions confiscated, mail interfered with, religious rights denied, and was repeatedly put into isolation cells for 6 months, which is 5 months longer than allowed by state laws. This attempt was halted by Standing Deer's lawyer Margaret Gold, and many letters to the governor in protest. Standing Deer had also been fasting for weeks during this ordeal. He is a 65 year old Indian Elder with a disabled back and is not recieving proper medical care. Hopefully, soon we will know how much longer the prisons can keep him, as new breaks in his case are now appearing.

Write letters of support to:

Standing Deer #83947
aka Robert H. Wilson
PO Box 97
McAlester, Oklahoma
74502-0097

For more info, write to us at:

PO Box 6326
Station A,
Toronto, Ont.
M5W 1P7

RESISTANCE AT WOLLASTON

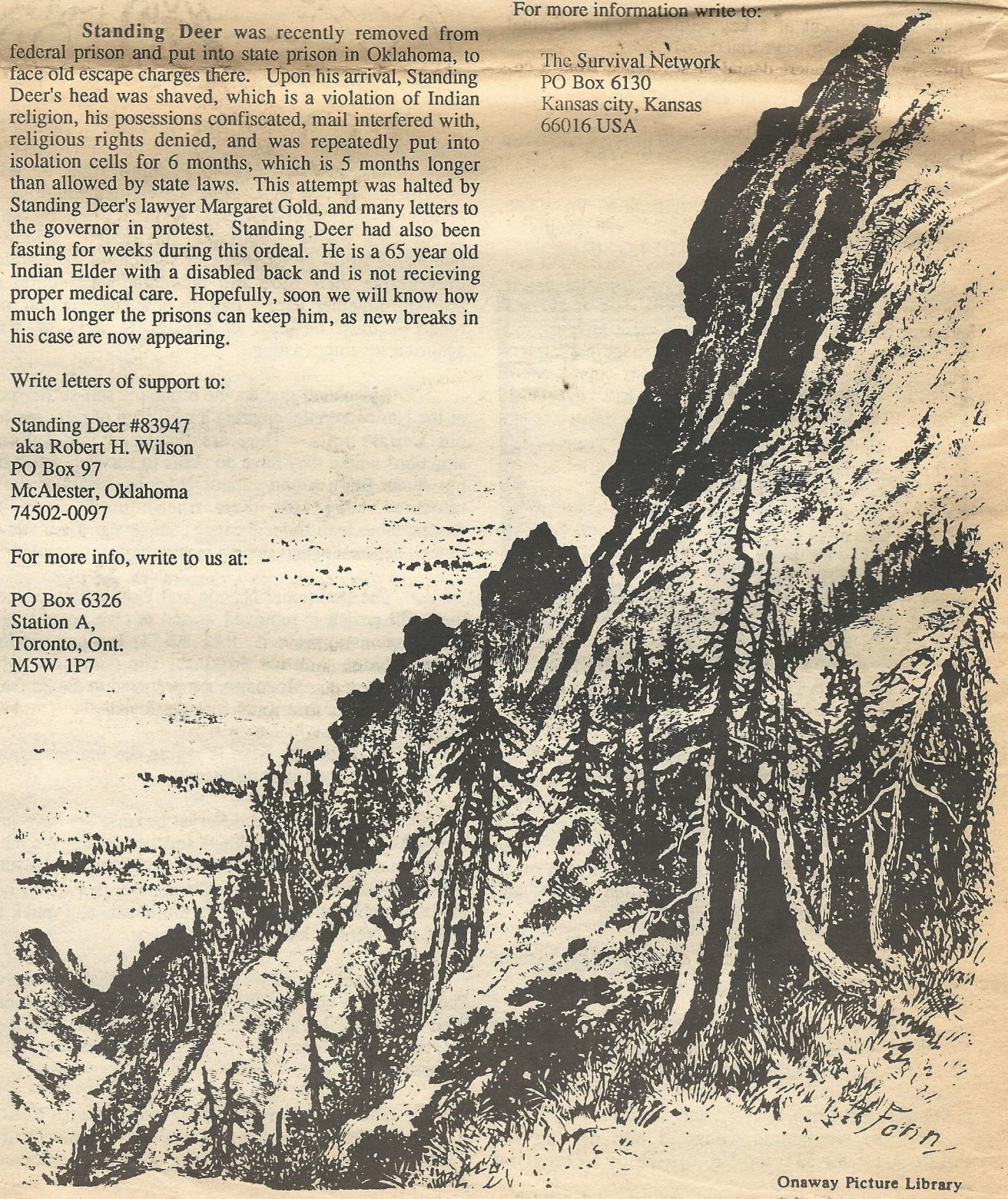
In Saskatchewan uranium is being mined on Dene Indian lands near **Wollaston Lake**. This area, wild and clean, is now becoming a radioactive wasteland. Canadian Social Democrats, and Conservatives alike have turned Canada into the Western world's largest producer of uranium, surpassing even the USA. 'Progress' instead of survival? Insane! For more info, and what you can do to help write:

Collins Bay Action Group
Box 3183
Vancouver, BC
V6B 3X6 Canada

WOMYN OF ALL RED NATIONS (WARN)

In 1980 when **WARN** brought charges of systematic sterilization against the USA to the **4th Bertrand Russell Tribunal**, the Tribunal after investigating, condemned the USA for genocidal policies in attempting to prevent births within a group. At that time over 24% of Indian womyn were already sterilized. And it continues to happen to this day. At **Pine Ridge Reservation** in South Dakota in 1979, 38% of pregnant Indian womyn had miscarriages. This was 7 times the national average infant mortality rate. Why? Well at Pine Ridge, corporations are allowed by the US government to search and mine for uranium, large waste dumps are there and tests have shown high levels of radioactive contamination in the area. The US government is commiting intentional **Genocide** of Native Americans. For more information write to:

The Survival Network
PO Box 6130
Kansas city, Kansas
66016 USA



Onaway Picture Library

FREE RED KNIFE

The **Red Knife Support Network** is proud to announce a victory of sorts in the struggle to obtain a new trial for this brother. This is the first victory since his state appeal was heard by the **South Dakota Supreme Court** in April '83, for unjustified assault convictions, arising out of the liberation of prisoners inside the North Dakota prison (deemed a riot by the authorities.) In November '81 he faced a systematic 'stone-wall' in obtaining any justice with respect to the case.

When the appeal was upheld in August'83, the public defender handling it went into private practise, the new one appointed out of their office in Sioux Falls, circumvented his responsibilities by advising the pursuit of the appeal totally contrary to procedures of perfecting appeals between state court to the federal court among other things. Once Red Knife was informed of the lawyer's improper actions, the public defender regressed another step to prevent this case from reaching the federal courts. He portrayed 'doing something' when he in fact wasn't. It took on it's final stage, when after six months of running our brother in circles the lawyer refused to ever respond to letters.

Red Knife has a somewhat limited knowledge of legal procedures, but he decided the only way the appeal would get done would be to do it himself. He recieved help from a friend who is very knowledgeable in the law (commonly called a 'jailhouse' lawyer.) Issues included but weren't limited to things such as:

1) the impeachment of a key witness on his criminal record (was denied by state trial court)
2)pre- judicial joinder(denial of severence from a co-defendent)
3)discovery of witnesses statements(which could have very possibly helped- denied by state courts)
4) submitting improper jury instruction by judge
5) admitting immaterial evidence

Upon submitting the **Writ of Habeus Corpus** (the legal name for the appeal) it was sent to public defenders for appraisal and filing. Needless to say it was not filed. After almost one year from the day it was sent to them and after subsequent runarounds and letters of complaint by Red Knife to these lawyers, the circuit court judges, the federal court judge etc, it was returned **unfiled**! The next stage of his appeal being slow-played ocurred by the judge of the federal court there in Sioux Falls himself!

Upon return of the appeal to Red Knife, he sent it to the court himself from inside the control unit at USP Marion. It is a common practice that a Writ of Habeus Corpus be handled in a timely and concise manner, as it is a remedy alleging violations of Constitutional Rights; the Writ is based on claims by the prisoner that he or she is being confined illegally because of violations of legal proceddings! In order to file a Writ, there must be a filing fee paid, if the person doesn't have the money, they may file it under what is known as a **'pauper.'** To do so the court must grant a motion to proceed **'In Forma Pauperis.'** The criteria for this is relatively simple: The court must have jurisdiction and the person must show his indigency. Both were met, yet the judge failed to rule on (grant) the motion for almost 8 months, and only did so after Red Knife filed over his head to the 8th US circuit court of appeals that he wasn't doing his job.

The court ordered the appeal filed (granted **Forma Pauperin**) on October 28th, 1985. It further ordered the state of South Dakota (by way of attorney general) to answer the appeal. Upon another motion from Red Knife, the court ordered counsel to be appointed on November 18th, 1985. The answer by the state evaded arguing the issues, but dealt with legal technicalities -- why the appeal should be dismissed (such as allegations that state remedies weren't exhausted before applying to the federal court, etc.) All of which show their displeasure that the case is finally before the federal courts and they don't want to see it come up for hearings which would expose their violations.

As of yet counsel of Red Knife has not responded to this answer, there are many thousands of pages of transcripts etc. He must become familiar with them in order to make an intelligent and hopefully successful reply. It is important now that this case has finally surpassed the stone wall of getting into the federal court, that it is monitored and people let their concerns be known that we don't want one more casualty of legal bureaucracy. We must let the judge know that there are those out here in society who know what the case is about and we demand justice be had! Therefore, we here at the Red Knife Defense/Support Network ask all of you who support this case to write to the lawyer handling this case as well as the judge, letting them know you're aware of the case and in the interest of Justice you demand every legal means possible to be observed to see a re-trial is granted.

Letters may be sent to:

Honorable John B Jones
US District Court
District of South Dakota
400 s. Phillips Ave.
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
57102 USA

Todd C. Miller
Attorney at Law
141 N. Main, suite 706
Siuox Falls, South Dakota,57102, USA

For more information on the Network and how you can help, contact us at:

Red Knife D/S Network
PO Box 6130
Kansas City, Kansas
66016 USA

Write letters of support to Red Knife:

Red Knife aka Steve Layton #80663 011
PO Box 1000, H- Unit
Marion, Illinoi
62959 USA

LUBICON BAND UPDATE

The Lubicon Lake Band is continuing it's struggle for its land base in Northern Alberta. The 500 member Cree Indian Band has been fighting the Provincial and Federal governments and 10 major oil companies for many years now while their traditional way of life has been steadily destroyed.

Their traditional land base has been over-run by oil companies who were sold the land by the Albertan government. They have destroyed much of the area and run most of the animals off the land, forcing 95% of the band onto welfare since their hunting and trapping economy has been ruined. Their very survival as a band is directly threatened.

Recently the Band's negotiations with the Federal Government for a reserve settlement broke down due to unreasonable and discriminatory conditions put upon the talks by Federal negotiator Roger Tasse. As of latest news, the Lubicons have refused to continue negotiations until the government is prepared to talk seriously with them.

The Lubicon Band is organizing a boycott of the 1988 winter Olympics which are to be held in Calgary, Alberta. The winter Olympics are being organized by the same interests (ie: Provincial government,oil companies) which are committing genocide against the Lubicon people. The band asks that people publicize the boycott and pressure the government and people not to attend.

At the same time, the **Glenbow Museum** in Calgary is organizing a display of North American Indian artifacts titled "Forget Not My World". The show, which will feature items brought from collections all around the world, is also the target of a boycott by the Band and deserves the same support. The show's exclusive corporate sponsor is Shell Oil, who also happen to be runing a $131 million dollar tar sands plant on the Lubicon land. Shell is also, interestingly enough, perpetrating racism in South Africa as well by supplying oil to the South African military. It is ludicrous for such people to be organizing an exhibit of Native artifacts while they deliberately destroy living Native communities.

For more information on their struggles, see issue 4 of **RN** and the supplement for issue 5, or write to us for any specific info. Or, if you'd like to help out the band or just get more information from them, contact the Lubicon Band at:

The Lubicon Band
Box 2684 Peace River, Alberta
T0H 2X0 Canada

SEVENTEEN YEAR OLD SENTENCED

A seventeen year old from the **Peerless Lake** community in Northern Alberta has been sentenced to 60 days in jail for stealing photocopying fluid from a school. The fluid, which is highly toxic, was mixed with a household disinfectant and drunk by 13 Indians, killing six of them.

The incident took place March 11 at a drinking party in the Peerless Lake Indian Community. Drinking has been a problem there recently due to a desperate economic and social situation.

Peerless Lake was isolated and inaccessable until recently, and the community lived by hunting and trapping. The people of Peerless Lake never signed Treaty, and as a result they retain unextinguished Aboriginal rights to their traditional lands.

Since the onset of oil and gas development in the area north of Lesser Slave Lake (around 1979-1980) , the Native communities in the area have suffered enormously. The industrial activity resembles nothing so much as a full-blown military invasion, with round the clock road construction, seismic testing, well drilling, pipeline construction and so on. By the winter of 1982-83, the traditional economy of most of these groups was for all practical purposes totally destroyed. The welfare statistics of the Peerless Lake people are incredibly high.

So when six Indians die of methyl hydrate poisoning we must start to ask questions: Why would a group of Native people drink from a bottle clearly labelled poisonous? Why are these people desperate enough to drink household disinfectants and other fluids for a cheap high? Why are drinking parties of this sort a common occurence in their community? Who is responsible for the six deaths at Peerless Lake? And especially we should be asking, why is a seventeen year old going to jail for 60 days when the real criminals, the provincial government and the oil and gas companies, remain free to destroy the land and the people of the area?

Linda Muskwa in the room where the poisoning occurred.

RESISTING MEDICAL AUTHORITY

Chemicals, synthetics, radiation and electricity in various forms constitute "traditional medicine," according to most North American doctors. With the arrogance of ignorance these doctors summarily dismiss "non-traditional" or alternative treatments like **acupuncture, moxibustion, nutritional and herbal remedies**, and just plain common sense, practised for 5 thousand years. Unendorsed by scientific "authorities" these remedies are considered to be questionable at the very least.

Womyn especially are conditioned to unquestioningly submit to the authority of medical experts. For instance, birthing a child is most logically done in a position natural for expelling an object from the vagina -- squatting and working with gravity.

This natural position and the use of aids such as birthing chairs or birthing stools have all been condemned as "primitive" and "uncivilized" and eliminated from the birth process. Instead, doctors sit comfortably, waiting for the labouring womyn to drop her child into their hands from a prone position with the squat artificially created by stainless steel stirrups. Pushing horizontally rather than dropping as nature intended is far more taxing on the strength of both mother and child than is necessary, especially added to the routine administration of chemicals to numb the body and the senses. Births are far too often induced at the doctors' convenience rather than the baby's. Ironically, pregnancy is not a disease, but a particularly normal healthy process.

Authoritarian medicine rarely, if ever, recommends **shiatsu** or **chiropractics** to correct difficulties with muscles or bones. Yet either of the former is a more sensible solution to those particular problems. It is reasonable that a knowledgeable practitioner can manipulate muscles and bones back into proper position or alleviate pain by stimulation of certain of the body's natural processes. A pill prescribed by a doctor won't put a slipped disc back into place, or release the pressure of a pinched nerve. The pill just deadens the senses until the body eventually heals itself.

Traditional doctors foist millions of needles and dangerous X-rays, painful and humiliating diagnostic procedures, and **tons** of toxic chemicals like valium and aspirin on their trusting patients annually. Remember **thalidomide** and **DES?** There are countless other drug horror stories. What "miracle drug" is being prescribed now to the unwary that will maim future generations? Doctor's concern for the health of their patients? Or a vested interest in kickbacks from huge drug concerns in the form of all expense paid "conferences" in Hawaii or the Italian Riveria?

(Note- Thalidomide, a West German wonder preventative for morning sickness was prescribed to thousands of pregnant womyn in the early 60's and resulted in thousands of babies being born without arms or legs or with their hands growing directly from their shoulders and their feet from their hip sockets.

DES, a fertility drug prescribed in the 40's and now proven to have **no effect at all** on a womyn's ability to concieve has created uteric and genital cancers in the now adult children of those "guinea pig" mothers who trusted medical "authority".)

Drug corporations also seem to have a stranglehold on the **CMA** (Canadian Medical Association). A Scarborough herbalist reports that at least one doctor who had begun directing more and more patients to her for herbal remedies rather than presribing drugs, was required by the CMA to account for the decrease in the number of drug prescriptions she wrote.

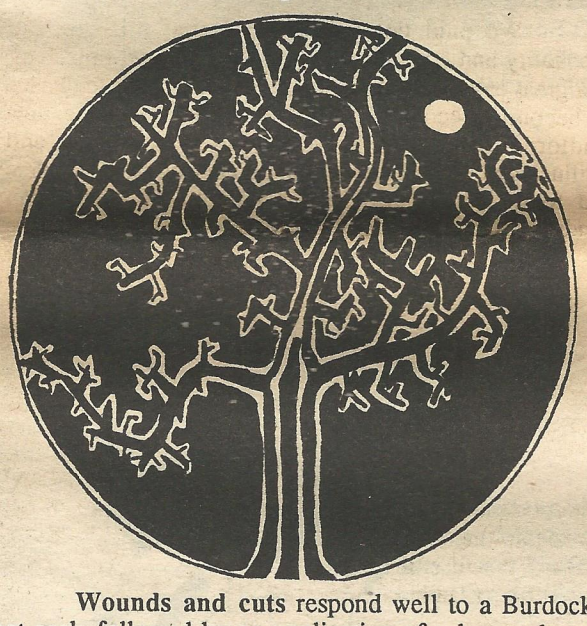
In Saskatchewan, the medical lobby has sucessfully had ginseng, and about 30 other popular and effective herbs prohibited from sale because of "possible allergic reactions" . In Ontario, import and sale of the very effective Roha herbal bronchial remedy has been prohibited for unspecified reasons. Resisting authoritarian, oppressive medical practices requires self-education,common sense and careful analysis. Blind faith in herbal and natural remedies as in anything else, is sheer stupidity.

Reclaiming power over our health and our bodies entails taking responsibility seriously and sensibly. The rewards? Freedom from the drug induced stupor that millions of people grope their way through life in ... a clean, non-toxic way of assisting the body to heal itself ... a clearer recognition of the close connection between our bodies and Mother Earth ... the spiritual satisfaction of living compatibly with the rhythms of the earth - tending, and taking and giving back - harvesting, composting, growing.

Effective self-treatment, as was said, takes thought and careful analysis. For example abdominal cramps can be caused by, amongst other things, constipation, food poisoning, allergy, PMS, colitis, a virus, or over-eating. Each needs to be treated differently with an appropriate remedy.
There is no panacea. What are the accompanying symptoms? What preceded the cramps? What will be required to re-establish a healthy balance after treatment? What long-term cause is responsible for the present condition?
How to remedy that? There is no sense in treating the same condition over and over again if it can be eliminated.

SOME REMEDIES

Alternatives or blood purifiers work gradually to change and restore all of the organs to healthy functioning. They are especially helpful after an illness or infection -- the "old fashioned" way of administering a tonic to convalescents was founded on this knowledge. **Skin outbreaks**, which often result from accumulations of toxins in the blood, also respond very well to alternatives. Since pimples often take a long time to form before coming to a head -- allow six weeks of daily treatment to clear the skin. Alfafa, Burdock, Chickweed, Mallow root, Cleavers, Dandelion, and Red Clovers are all excellent blood purifiers. Chemical disinfectants are very harsh and cause tissue damage in cuts.



Wounds and cuts respond well to a Burdock root soak,,followed by an application of salve made up from honey, codliver oil and olive oil. A similar commercial preparation was used in hospitals a number of years ago. As costs became an overpowering factor, it's use was discontinued.

People in Mexico apply a thick coating of banana blended with yogurt to heal **sunburn** and keep skin damage to a minimum and ease the pain. It's messy but effective.

Drinking large amounts of rosehip tea helps to **restore internal balance**. The **swelling of a sprain** reduces much faster if bound in bandages soaked in apple cider vinegar or arnica.

Antibiotics are totally indiscriminate about the bacteria which they kill. Consequently, beneficial bacteria that defend the body such as those in the intestinal tract are destroyed along with the infection causing ones. **To re-establish bacteria** that help the body resist further infection include natural yogurt in the diet after a course of antbiotics, along with very small amounts of brewers' yeast in any form. This should be continued daily for a few weeks. *Never* combine ASA and antibiotics. Deaths have resulted from this, especially in young people.

A wet camomile tea bag bound over a **badly swollen insect bite** will reduce the swelling and sometimes eliminate it overnight.

An incipient cold can often be warded off by drinking 2 or 3 cups of hot ginger tea with lemon and honey a couple of hours before going to bed. Hot elderberry wine with honey is also enjoyable and effective, though harder to find.

Catsfoot, yarrow and chickweed infusions with honey work well for **chest colds**. So does boneset but it is extremely bitter. Chest colds also respond well to old fashioned mustard plasters-a mixture of powdered mustard, flour and hot water spread between two pieces of flannel. These are applied to chest and back, creating a deep penetrating heat; but it is wise to watch carefully for irritations especially if you have sensitive skin.

Drinking lots of hot fluids such as a tea of elderberry blossoms, peppermint, rosehips and honey, comfort, nourish and alleviate symptoms when you are suffering from any kind of cold.

Combinations of nettle, slippery elm, camomile and fever few are helpful for breaking **fevers**. Weak infusions taken often in large quantities seem to work best. Although natural remedies are by far easier on the kidneys than chemicals, it is still good to put as little strain as possible on them during fever.

Sore throat from **tonsilitis** can be greatly relieved with syrups of either coltsfoot or violet leaves boiled with honey and strained - horehound, honey and cayenne are also good. Golden Seal tea helps alot too.

Ginger and **cayenne** are stimulants. The more blood circulates through an inflamed area, the faster it is cleansed and healed.These are helpful to supplement any treatment.

Salted potato chips seem an absurd remedy, but can be very effective in easing **sore throats** where there are pustules.The sharp edges of the chips break off pustules and the salt heals the break quickly. Drinking lots of fluids will wash the swallowed pus quickly out of the body.

Coughs are soothed and phlegm loosened with a syrup made by filling a glass jar with raspberries. Pour as much white sugar into the jar as will go (over the raspberries) usually an almost equal amount. Cap the jar tightly and let it sit in the sun for a full week or so,turning it over every time you think of it. Strain and take by the tablespoon as needed. If you've missed raspberry season, an onion chopped and cooked in honey for half an hour then strained is good but not nearly as pretty.

Flu remedies include bed rest of course, lots of fluids, white willow bark for aches, and fever few, yellow gentian, sallowbark for fever.

Sleep can be induced with tea of any of the following- dill, catnip, hops, primrose, and St. John's wort. A pillow filled with linden, lavender and pine needles often works well along with the tea, and it's fragrance encourages pleasant dreams. In addition to tea and herb pillows, people having a very difficult time getting to sleep have found the following simple meditation technique effective: playing an environmental tape of either sea or wind sounds and imagining themselves floating or drifting in wind or water, whichever they feel most comfortable with.

Abdominal cramps result from various causes, a few of which with corresponding remedies follow: **Cramps from diarrhoea** are relieved by strawberry or raspberry leaves in tea or alcohol. **Cramps caused by constipation** are relieved by senna, cascara, borage, or witch grass. **Menstrual cramps** by rue, and black cohosh. **PMS** by black haw or blue cohosh. **Colitis** by melissa black bean or valerian. **Cramps caused by over eating** or **flatulence** are relieved by dill, caraway or peppermint.

Depression has at least as many causes as cramps but in general is lightened by catnip, chestnut valerian and dill, all of which are mild euphorics. Keeping the kidneys flushed and healthy is very important since infected kidneys can cause or increase depression.

Physical exhaustion can be countered with alfalfa, juniper and a diet including generous amounts of molasses and dried apricots all of which have a high mineral content; **mental exhaustion** with yerba santa or gotu kola.

In beginning responsible self-determination for health care, it is wise to accept the limitations of inexperience, but to investigate remedies most effective for yourself as an individual. What is effective for one person may not be effective for another.

The Herb Book, *The Healing Herbs*, and *Indian Herbology of North America* are all good reference sources to start with.

Alys

AN IMPASSIONED SPEECH TO THE ATTENDEES OF HAYMARKET '86

Fellow anarchists,

I cannot be with you today, because I am a quadriplegic and travel is very difficult for me. But I am with you in spirit, and hope you will permit me these few words.

When the Haymarket Tragedy occured in 1886, the anarchist movement was large and vibrant. Its heyday lasted over 50 years, from the civil war abolitionists, to the twentieth century deportations. In our times, I am sorry to say I see only a skeleton of a movement left.

It is not because there are no committed anarchists out there, or that our ranks are too tiny. Your numbers here in Chicago make a lie of that. No, I suggest the problem is a lack of cohesiveness, of true comradeship.

One of the main things Haymarket was about was *unity*. People with different temperments and ideas came together to support and promote the struggle for aan ideal society; a non-coercive one.

I must admit that I disagree with many of the ideas and actions behind the scenes of Haymarket. I probably hold beliefs that many of you would consider wrong. Likewise, I probably disagree in some fashion with each one of you. *But that does not matter*. Ideas do no harm, only actions do. So long as we act peacefully, and interact voluntarily, all the rest are irrelevant preferences and prejudices. They define our individual personalities, but we should never allow them to interfere with anarchist untiy, not now, or in our anarchist future. When we get there, out "major disagreements" will become the spice of life in a truly pluralistic world. It is toward that end that I strongly urge you all to do as Voltairine asked us, namely, be "anarchists without adjectives".

You who are here now have a vivid sense of our past. By making new friends, I hope you have a much firmer grasp of our present. But what about the future? As you depart, I beg you to think about three things:

1) **Live anarchy.** Find peace in your own minds, bodies, and souls. If you do not, you are no use to yourselves, much less anyone else. And when you do find inner peace, direct your lives in every way toward happiness, fulfillment, and liberation. Every action you then take will almost instinctively lead in the direction of freedom.

2) **Cooperate.** For the sake of all that can be good in the world, put aside personality clashes and irrelevant disputes. It sounds trite, but we are the future. We are the ones who came, battered but still moving, through all the garbage authoritarians threw at us for most of our lives. If we cannot learn to live, work, and love together, then the hope of anarchy is dead. Period.

3) **Get serious by getting passionate.** Academic research and philosophical treatises have their place, but what we really need are more "converts". I put that in quotes as a warning because finding converts is the work of missionaries and politicians. They find new followers by preaching, educating, cajoling, and threatening. We do not want *converts*, we want more free-thinking anarchists. The only ways to do that are by persuading, sharing, caring, and most importantly, setting an example.

Haymarket had alot to do with anarchy and dynamite. Anarchy *is* dynamite... passionate, all encompassing love of freedom. There are millions of people in the world who already live in a sort of de facto anarchy. At very least, they, unlike the rock-hard statists and deists, have open or just confused minds. So, I beg you, go home and reach out to your neighbours, gently, in every way possible. It *is* better to light one candle than to curse the darkness.

The candle we carry *is* dynamite, and only we have the choice of how to use it. If only we all begin to practice understanding, cooperation, and passionate action, I truly believe the future can be salvaged. We owe that to the Haymarket martyrs, and most importantly, we owe it to ourselves.

Paul Bilzi

c/o

LYSANDER SPOONER SOCIETY
P.O. BOX 433
WILLIMANTIC CT
06226 USA

WE ARE BEGINNING TO RISE ...

Long before the treaties were signed, long before the Mayflower set sail for America, long before Columbus accidentally invaded North America, people resided, built communities, established boundaries, harvested the land, developed and refined cultures, lived and buried their dead, proclaimed the land theirs as deemed by natural right and became Indian Nations.

Invading European countries, under the banner of their religious beliefs and pure greed, seized upon the hospitality of these Indian Nations and dealt with them in every ill-concieved way to decieve and literally steal away their land, riches and humanity. When the plundering was finally over the Indian Nations were left in poverty and survived on meager hand-outs from the now self-proclaimed landlords.

We paid dearly for our initial mistake, our hospitality and open-door policies. We found ourselves, to a great extent, on unproductive land with little chance of becoming economically self-sufficient as the new landlords extracted Treaties from our hungry and disillusioned grandfathers. The plundering was complete and total. From millions of inhabitants making up hundreds of Tribal Nations, a few thousand survived.

To many of our non-native friends, we are grateful for support as we rebuild our sense of self-esteem and pride. As Indian Nations we are slowly rebuilding, we are finding our culture, seeking out our traditional beliefs and learning to sort through the bureaucratic mumbo jumbo of the Indian Act and Indian Affair.

In spite of these obstacles, we have survived and will continue to survive. We have been put through the fire and despite poverty, alcohol, drugs, welfare, greed and racism we will still live, watch the sun rise and rejoice long after our landlords have gone.

Lubicon Lake, take heart! The silent majority supports your stand and fight for survival, the right to live on your land just as your forefathers have done for so many, many years. We applud your strength and forebearance in standing up to the greed that smacks its lips to claim your rights.

To the Clayoguot and Ahousaht Indians, who reside on Meares Island, to the Haida Indians and all those who oppose the destruction of the magnificent rain forest by the greed of the British Cloumbia lumber companies, we salute your stand in protecting our Motherland.

To all people who are standing up against the continued plunder and rape of our Motherland, we, the silent majority salute you.

We remain a divided people because of our circumstances but in spite of everything we remain as one and we are growing, we are gainig strength, we are beginning to rise above the past ...

Ben Buffalo
(from *Kainai News*)

GREEN ANARCHIST

GREEN ANARCHISM: Autonomous villages, consequent regression of technology, de-industrialisation, no bomb. Growing food is dirty and tiring. If you want to eat, you'll have to grow it yourself. There'll be no ruling class to expropriate it from the peasants for you. Strategy: revolution on the periphery. We hate and fear violence but we do not reject it.

Overseas sub: £11.00 for 10 issues from: GREEN ANARCHIST. 19 Magdalen Road, Oxford. OX4 1RP. UK.

TRAIL OF TEARS WALK

This walk was organized by Cherokee Elders to honour those who had suffered on the Trail of Tears. (This was the forced removal of the eastern Indian tribes, the **Cherokee, Choctaw, Muskogee, Seminole** and others to Oklahoma in the mid nineteenth century. Thousands suffered and died.) The walk began March 1st, in Oklahoma, and ends in Red Clay, Tennessee, the site of the last general council of the Cherokee in the 1800's, and the site of the reunification of the Cherokee in 1984. Write to:

Native Culture and Ecology Research Foundation
2311 Mavis Circle
Talllahassa, Florida
32301 USA

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Issue 4 design comes in black ink on a red shirt, featuring the front cover on the front *and* the back cover ("The Next Move is Yours") on the back. Issue 5 design comes in 3 colours ink on a white shirt, with the Melah Lutah cover (front only). And now the issue 6 design is available in black ink on a red shirt, featuring the front cover on the front and the "For Defense of Life on Earth" statement on the back.

A STATEMENT FROM TORONTO ANARCHISTS

The recent anarchist gathering in Chicago held to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the **Haymarket** massacre was highlighted, appropriately enough, by the arrests of 38 people on charges of '**Mob Action against the State**' and '**Disorderly Conduct**' after a 'No Business As Usual' march through the streets of downtown Chicago.

Eight of those arrested were from Toronto. We felt that we would like to give our perspective on the events since there are important lessons to be learned. It is not our intention to cast the blame on anyone, though all the way down the line decisions could have been made both on a group and individual level that would have altered the outcome.

We would like to thank all those people who contributed generously to the bail fund. We also appreciated the people who worked hard to ensure that we were in fact released. Jail support, in such circumstances, in many ways can be even more trying than incarceration itself.

It was clear, as we sat in jail, that we were there for our ideas and what those ideas represent. Certainly, it wasn't a very pleasant experience, but less than two days in jail is not the worst thing that has happened to anarchists. We were nourished by good humour, interesting discussions and renewed political clarity. The shared experience strengthened the community and political bonds we felt towards each other. If we had to go through such an experience, it was easier in the presence of friends. Since all of us from Toronto have actively been involved in prison support work, our friends and comrades in prisons and jails throughout North America were never far from our thoughts. Even under the relatively benign conditions in which we were held, the experience of imprisonment was horrible. This only **strengthened** our commitment to struggle against the continuation of political and social imprisonment.

The people who were arrested were those who had become separated from the main body of the demonstration for one reason or another. Many of us did not know that the stakes of the demonstration had been raised by people going into stores and the Mariotte Hotel to create 'scenes'. Nor was everyone aware that a meeting was held the night before during which the question of 'spontaneous actions' had been debated. We in no way 'blame' those who did the spontaneous actions which might have precipitated the arrests. We support such actions in general, and the ones which were done, in particular.

The situation was classic for arrests given that the numbers had been reduced and the demonstrators were spread out. We became more like tourists than demonstrators at this point, looking for the transit, Haymarket Square, the march, friends or even food. Various small groups of demonstrators found them-selves surrounded and outnumbered by the police. Most people were arrested while dispersing on com-mand from the police. Some were even picked up while entering the transit stations. It was obvious that a decision had been made to start arresting people so it was mainly a question of luck which determined who was arrested and who wasn't. It seems as though three distinct areas were swept by the police. It can also probably be assumed that it was a concious decision by the cops to avoid creating a potentially more riotous situation by picking off those who were isolated rather than confronting the larger and more cohesive mob.

When it became apparent that arrests were about to be made, some of those eventually arrested made the decision to continue forward to see what was happening. If people are being arrested, it is useful on a number of levels to have sympathetic witnesses. This assumes that such arrests are of specific people for specific actions, rather than being random arrests. Witnesses can have the effect of lessening any explicit use of force in the arrests, can take information, can begin jail support more quickly. Such decisions are up to the individual and are made on the moment without full information. At least one person was arrested when she went to verbally intercede on behalf of another when he was being roughly handcuffed with his hands behind his back while pushed against the hood of a car. But the principle remains, that in these circumstances people should not be totally abandoned at the moment of arrest even if the potential witnesses themselves are more likely to be arrested.

The ways to avoid such situations are clear even if their implementation is more difficult. Everyone on the march should have known that 'spontaneous events' had been anticipated. Those who wished to avoid such situations could have then left the march earlier, as some did with this knowledge, or otherwise could have taken more precautions. Maps of the area could have been issued which would have enabled people to make decisions as to how to get away from that location and people would have been freer to dash off on their own. The problem is that this information would have to have been distributed without revealing the plans, or, even worse, could even be used for more serious **conspiracy** charges.

If, as we would like to see, demonstrations become more **common**, and more **militant**, then techniques need to be developed through which spontaneous decisions can be made. In such cases routes should not be publicized. This would make it more difficult for police to mass their forces at some known point along the route. Decisions could be made along the way as to where we would go next. As different tactical possibilities became apparent, then they could be quickly discussed and appropriate decisions could be made. Granted, this would not be easy, but on the other hand, it is necessary to develop such techniques, but our politics should allow for such development. We got off easy, as it was, and we should learn some valuable lessons.

Too many of us have become a little complacent about demonstrations. Mass arrests are quite rare these days unless they are part of a Civil Disobedience strategy. Demonstrations have come to serve as a community event where experiences are shared and energies renewed; this community purpose is as important as the expressed political intent of the demonstration. The seemingly restrained response of the police at the beginning of the demonstration fed this more celebratory approach to the march. It is unclear if the police knew from the beginning that arrests would have come at the end, or whether that decision was triggered by the move into stores. But when the boisterous display at the **IBM** building precipitated no major response, it seemed that the demonstration would be allowed to burn itself out.

The lack of pre-arranged legal support is also a function of too many years of 'peaceful demonstrations'. Legal backup, should be a matter of course. It is ironic but true that an anarchist community needs lawyers. Their function is simply one of serving as technicians dealing with the mechanics of the legal system. There is also a pressing need for more legal knowledge on our part. Once arrested, we had little accurate knowledge of the workings of the Illinois legal system so we were handicapped in making our decisions. This is particularly true of people from out of state, or across the border. We had not even been legally informed as to what charges we faced.

The strategy of the men to refuse to give their names was logical as a form of solidarity and protest, especially since peace demonstrators had been released on John Doe warrants in other areas. Ironically, we could have saved a great deal of difficulty if we had realized that all we had to do was give 'a name', any name for that matter, as well as our fingerprints in order to be released. (This is potentially problematic for anyone whose fingerprints are on file.) No I.D. was checked, but the fingerprints were sent off for checking. The financial charge for such checks, imposed by the jurisdiction asked to do the search, limit the extent of the search. Theoretically, we could have all walked out without giving them one correct name. It would be quite useful if local laws and practices were checked out. Such knowledge might come in useful some day.

The jail experience was quite informative since it encapsulated many of the features of our repressive, sexist and racist society. **Rape** was openly suggested as a possibility for one womyn, and a man was told that he would be thrown into the local jail to be raped. Another womyn was openly called a '**nigger-lover**' because she had her hair in braids. When she asked a black womyn cop how she felt about such terms, the cop said that she didn't hear anything. The womyn arrested found themselves included amongst Black hookers who had been arrested in that same evening in the cops' 'Business As Usual' arrests. The theft of money from one of the womyn nearly precipitated a major incident and the theft was used by police to harrass the hookers.

The men on the other hand were essentially spared any such threatening scenes and had little contact with regular prisoners. We were not fed for nearly a full day, then it was baloney sandwiches and white bread. One man suffering from Diabetes spent eight days in the hospital afterwards as a direct result of their refusal to give him medical attention. The windows were also opened on a cold night to cool us down. Since we were crowded six or seven in a 10x10 cell, without blankets or mattresses, it was a miserable evening. But certainly this was only the *normal* abuse heaped upon most people coming into this mini-gulag. Similarly the use of lies, misinformation, threats and general pigishness is part of the normal operating procedures.

The biggest failing of the day was that so many of us failed to take into consideration the way in which the political climate has become increasingly repressive. Militarism against third world peoples is once again being matched by repression at home. The war against terrorism will be waged at home as well as abroad. In the third world a certain number of demonstrators would have been killed to make a political point about protest. In Chicago, a certain number were arrested and had their wrists slapped. In both a legal and social sense, the realm within which political opposition is tolerated, is becoming narrower. And they don't like slow learners.

The '86 38/8

RAMONA FACES JAIL

Prior to the May 13th,1985 attack on the radical group **MOVE** house, Philadelphia Police Comissioner Sambor announced "Attention MOVE. **This is America**". The police were soon to drop a bomb from a helicopter which left 11 Black womyn, men and children dead, and 61 homes in the Black community destroyed in the inferno while firemen stood by and did nothing.

Ramona Africa, the lone adult survivor of the police bomb was aquitted 10 of 12 charges stemming from the assault. The jury found her guilty of riot and conspiracy while aquitting her of multiple counts of assault, reckless endangerment and resisting arrest. These charges could have gotten her up to 50 years in prison.

Asked if she got a fair trial she said "If I got a fair trial I wouldn't be here".

Lawyers all the way up to the $tate Attorney General's Office fought unsuccessfully to keep Ramona, who defended herself, from suppinaing **Mayor Goode** and former police comissioner **Sambor**. However, she was unable to force police **Lt. Frank Powell** and **Officer William Klein** to testify about the construction and dropping of the bomb on the MOVE house. Klein had admitted, after keeping it from investigators for some weeks, to adding the powerful *military* explosive C-4 to the bomb "on his own initiative" and with Powell, who flew the copter - pleaded Fifth Amendment to stay off the witness stand.

When questioned by Ramona, **Birdie Africa**, the 14 year old survivor of the attack recounted how MOVE people were prevented from exiting the back of the burning MOVE house by police gunfire in the back alley, that in addition to Ramona and himself two other children had come out of the house, that from the early morning hours until their exit that night, Birdie and Ramona were in the basement of the house and that Ramona Africa never had any kind of weapon that day. The prosecution asked him if he "knew" that a policeman had saved his life when he ran out of the house and fell unconscious into a puddle of water. "No", he answered, "I got up on my own".

MAXIMUM FORCE

All but two of the bodies were found in a cluster in the driveway area in the back of the house where Birdie said Ramona saved his life by pushing him and telling him to make a run for it. This fall the expert pathologist appointed by Mayor Goode's 11 member investigative commission found that five of the corpses belonged to children, rather than four as had been the report of the Philadelphia medical examiner's office. **Dr. Ali Hameli** found the cause of the eleven deaths to be **homicide**, or **suicide** (?) in contradiction to the Philadelphia medical examiner's findings of *"accidental" death due to "fire related" causes.*

Hameli's investigation revealed that the group's leader **John Africa** was among the dead, and that there were shotgun pellets in at least three of the bodies, which were somehow *missed* in the earlier autopsies. These did not appear to have been in themselves, the cause of death.

Police that day were armed with an arsenal that included a .50 calibre machine gun, seven Uzi machine guns, 16 m-16 semiautomatic rifles, two.22 calibre rifles with scopes and silencers, official police records show.The police fired **8570 rounds** of amunition. Police have maintained they *never fired* on MOVE people, although the Police Comissioner himself originally said otherwise and notes taken by a city detective quoted a police seargent as saying he had "downed" one of them in the back alley of the house.

According to a police log, the shooting which began at 6:01 am was initiated by gunfire from the MOVE house reported in the log as "automatic weapons .223 calibre" However, police and firefighters combing through the debris of the MOVE house found only two 12 guage shotguns, one .38 calibre police pistol and one .22 calibre rifle.

Among the weapons police borrowed from a private weapons dealer for the "show down" - and used- were an M-60 machine gun and a Browning automatic rifle (BAR), both used in combat by US troops. Stakeout cops in the house next door to MOVE were at one moment early in the "confrontation" subjected to fire from the M-60 by a triggerhappy cop.

Also borrowed but not used was a 20mm artillery piece cops described as an **"anti- tank gun"**.

TRUTH UNDER SEIGE

Somehow the jury who could see through the prosecution's attempt to hold Ramona accountable for the wounding of three police officers in the morning melee, was able to endorse the city's contention that Ramona had been part of a conspiracy to provoke the police into such a "confrontation".
Surely more evidence for that is needed than the letter allegedly written by Ramona which the police say they opened two days before the attack, however weirdly prophetic parts of it may seem, or however stridently rhetorical.

Ramona's sentencing was on April 14th, and she was sentenced to one and a half to seven years in jail.

The events leading up to the May 13th MOVE disaster are being readied for a made for television movie by the Taft Entertainment Co. The current working title for the "docudrama" is **"City Under Siege"**. There are people who won't sleep soundly until television tells them a comforting lie about this one.

For more information on the history of the **MOVE** organization and the May 13th bombing, write to us here at **REALITY NOW.**

LAURA WHITEHORN LOCKED UP

Women's FCI
Alderson,West Virginia
June,1986

To all progressive people:

Bad things happen. Good people don't like it, but since no one will accept responsibility, nothing can be done. Thus we do excuse our complicity in a host of evils from world starvation to US $tate sponsored terrorism to preparations for nuclear holocaust.

Prisons are but a microcosm of the larger society. Bad things happen, but no one "means" any personal harm, and no one will accept responsibility. Consider the case of **Laura Whitehorn**, a revolutionary anti-imperialist, presently detained in solitary confinement at Alderson Federal Prison.

Laura is awaiting trial and is, according to the system, innocent until proven guilty; yet she is held in 23 hour a day lock up with no human contact, denied visits from friends, severely restricted in her use of the phone, and, in essence, denied proper legal representation because her Washington D.C. lawyer cannot afford the time and expense involved in the 12 hour round trip.

Who is responsible? The Warden and the prison staff are simply obeying orders, the marshalls who transported her are simply doing their job, the judge was merely acting on a recommendation made without benefit of a hearing that "security" requires this extreme measure, and the Justice Department would say it is nothing more than the orderly confinement of a suspected criminal. None of these people would evidence personal animosity toward Laura, or express a desire to deny her legal or human rights. No one is "responsible" **but the situation continues.**

People in the progressive movement can view all this from a variety of perspectives. One analysis emphaizes a legitimate revolutionary movement which is being systematically and deliberately criminalized in an attempt to destroy it and scare others from joining it. Another's concerns stem more from the moral implications of injustice being perpetrated against any human being by a society in which people do their "jobs" antiseptically and anonymously without the responsibility for the personal consequences to the individual. The signers of this letter do not agree completely on each issue involved, nor do we wish to push a particular political viewpoint on you. Instead we come together around one important truth - the conditions under which Laura is being held are a form of violence which *must* be addressed. In every area of public life, the cycle of violence will not be broken until people **demand** accountability from all levels of authority.

In this case, you may be the one to break that cycle. Laura is under indictment of a federal court - the court that operates in your name. You have the right to ask **Judge Ramsey**(US District Court, Baltimore, Maryland) why Laura Whitehorn has been moved to a prison so inaccessible that her legal rights are jeopardized. She is confined in a Federal prison, and you have the right to ask **Warden Ron Burkhart** why a pre-trial detainee is housed under conditions which potentially threaten her well being. Certainly, other arrangements can be made, and you have the right to insist that someone assume responsibility for doing so.

Your letters will indicate that there are those who will not remain silent in the face of injustice, those who will express their own sense of responsibility and call it forth from others. We urge you to write and thank you for your concern.

Signed, (See **Dissident** News, page 6 .)

Helen Woodson, Plowshares prisoner
Lorry Thomas, Sanctuary worker
Shelley Miller, Grand Jury Register
Liz McAllister, Plowshares prisoner.

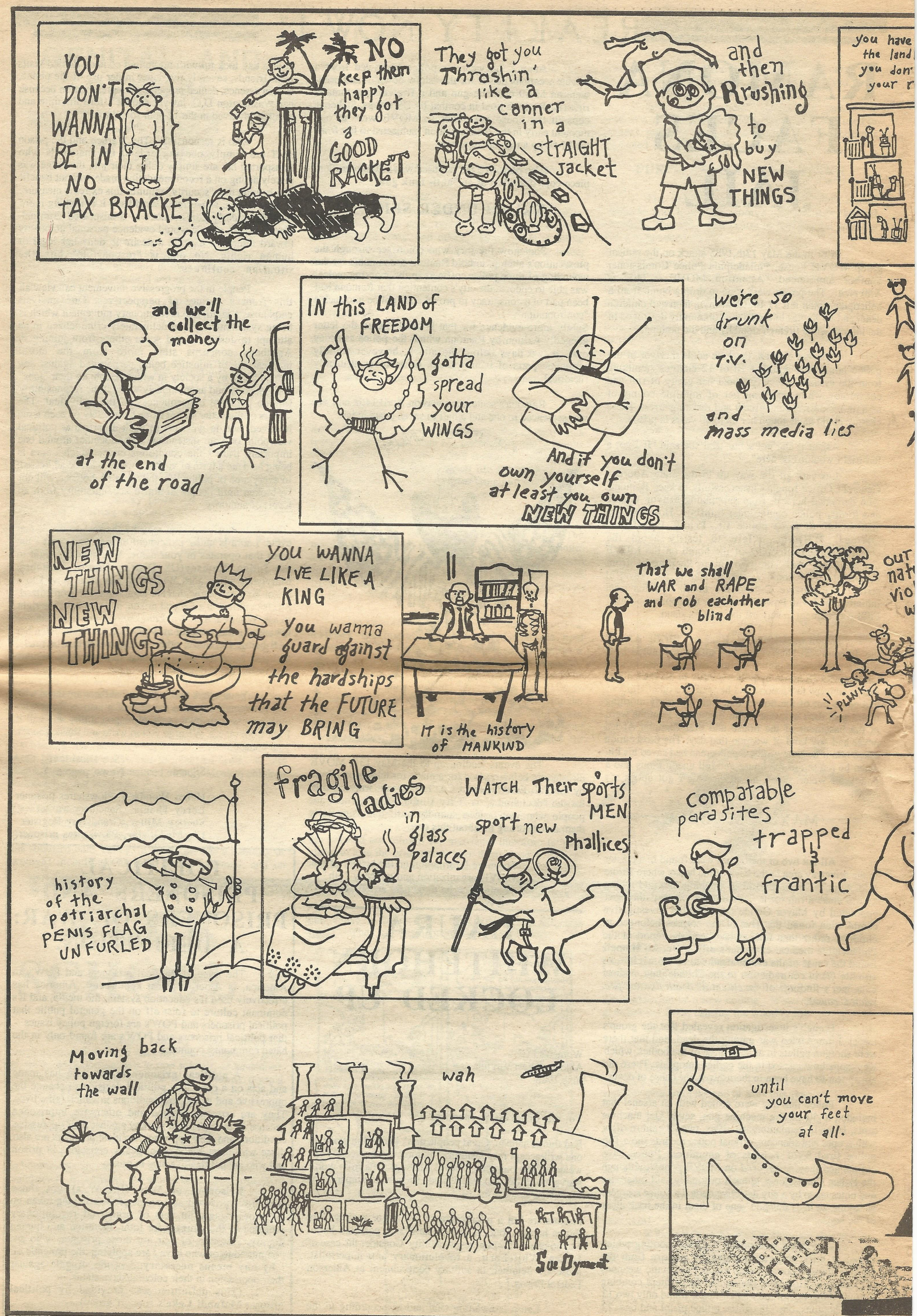
POLITICAL PRISONERS AND PRISONERS OF WAR: A DEFINITION.

The issue of political prisoners and POW's in America, is America's best kept secret. America has effectively used it's education system, the media, and it's dominant culture to foist off on the general public that political prisoners and POW's are foreign policy issues - that political prisoners and POW's are found only in the hated communist countries.

A **political prisoner** is one who has made and acts on a conscious political decision to change the oppressive and genocidal conditions in which (s)he lives. They are arrested, framed and otherwise imprisoned because of their political activity against their oppressive conditions and their oppressor. Political prisoners are also those who have become politically conscious in prison and who are politically active in prison.

Prisoners of War (P.O.W.'s) are those who are imprisoned as a result of their having taken up arms or engaged in acts of organized revolutionary violence in the struggle for total liberation and human dignity. Prisoners of war are those prisoners who are committed to or who have / are applying the principle of **' by any means necessary...'** in the struggle against their oppression in their colonial/slave status.

(This definition was provided by political prisoner **Mafundi Lake's** support group)


YOU DON'T WANNA BE IN NO TAX BRACKET
NO
keep them happy they got a GOOD RACKET
They got you Thrashin' like a canner in a STRAIGHT jacket
and then Rrushing to buy NEW THINGS
and we'll collect the money
at the end of the road
IN this LAND of FREEDOM
gotta spread your WINGS
And if you don't own yourself at least you own NEW THINGS
we're so drunk on T.V.
and mass media lies
NEW THINGS NEW THINGS
YOU WANNA LIVE LIKE A KING
You wanna guard against the hardships that the FUTURE may BRING
IT is the history of MANKIND
That we shall WAR and RAPE and rob eachother blind
history of the patriarchal PENIS FLAG UNFURLED
fragile ladies in glass palaces
WATCH Their sports MEN sport new Phallices
compatable parasites trapped & frantic
Moving back towards the wall
wah
until you can't move your feet at all.
Sue Dyment

to pay
ord
t own
oof
and when you're looking for WORK you gotta show them PROOF
And then they PLAY with your EGO they say "you be the boss"
BOSS
we'll do the arranging
and you pay the cost
YOU BUY THE FUEL
and you ship the load
we're kinda Looookinq the same: MONOCULTURALIZED
I'm so AFRAID of DIRECTING my time on my own
That I limit it to channel vvvolume and tone
AND THEN I dream at night what the T.V. said
so that I don't have to dream inside my screaming head
oral
ent
ays
HAVE AFFORDED US SOME WILD & GLORIOUS DAYS
we war and then we SCREW? Man, what kind of BIBLE is this history text for you?
yerrr fucked in the brain and now I think I can see why you like me taking notes to learn your history
YOUR "HISTORY of the WORLD"
assumed it all to be romantic
This is The Way
We paint the floor
FIRST PAINT THE AREA
infront of the door
BUYING NEW THINGS
STOP
STOP BUYING NEW THINGS.
ARE YOU LOST
Reality Now,
P.O. BOX 6326, STN. A
TORONTO, ONTARIO,
CANADA M5W 1P7

GENITAL AND SEXUAL MUTILATION OF WOMYN

Female circumcision is the popular but medically incorrect term most frequently used in Africa and the Middle East for a variety of genital mutilations of female children and young girls. At the present time these damaging operations are widely practiced all over Africa and the Middle East by many different population groups as documented in the medical and ethnographic literature.

DEFINITION OF OPERATIONS
(according to medical literature)

Excision/Cliteridectomy

Removal of the clitoris and often adjacent parts including the labia minora and sometimes all exterior genitalia. In some areas,additional cuts into the vagina are added (to make childbirth easier -- the opposite is true). Excision is the most frequent operation.

Infibulation (Pharaonic Circumcision)

After the removal of the clitoris and labia minora as well as parts of the labia majora, the two sides of the vulva are closed over the vagina. This is done by fastening together the bleeding sides of the labia majora with thorns or catgut or some sticky paste. A small opening is created by inserting a splinter of wood to allow for elimination of urine and later, menstrual blood. The legs of the child are then tied together, immobilizing her for several weeks or until the wound is healed.

COUNTRIES / AREAS (GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION)

Excision

Excision is practiced by many ethnic groups all over east, west and central Africa in a broad area along the equator, from Somalia and along the Red Sea coast to Senegal (Atlantic coast.) According to the literature published, these operations are documented in more than 26 African countries among hund-reds of tribes and millions of people. According to a conser-vative estimate at least 30 million womyn are mutilated today. This estimate has been recently changed to ***74 Million***. Exci-sion is also documented in the southern part of the Arab penin-sula and around the Persian Gulf. A less damaging operation is practiced on only Moslem children in Indonesia and Malaysia.

Infibulation

Infibulation is practiced in southern Egypt (Nubia) hence the name pharaonic circumcision, all along the southern Nile Valley, in the Sudan (on a majority of womyn) including Khartoum and Omdurman; and on **almost all** the female popu-lation of Somalia and Djibouti. Infibulation is also practiced amongst the Moslem population of Ethiopia and Eritrea and all along the Red Sea coast; in Northern Kenya (ethnic Somalis); in West Africa; in Mali; and in Northern Nigeria according to one medical source.

THE HEALTH RESULTS (summary)

Immediate Results:

Hemmorhage and infections, severe shock due to loss of blood and pain, tetanus (which is fatal),blood poisoning gan-grene and other infections due to septic conditions and dirty tools, difficulties in passing urine, damage to adjacent parts urethra, perineum, etc. In West Africa *dirt* is often thrown on the wound to stop the bleeding.

Childbirth:

Infibulation requires cutting of the vulva to make delivery possible; if no one can help, the mother and the baby may die. The often hardened scars of the excision operation prevent dilation especially with the first child, **brain damage** may result; also tears of the perineum.

Long Range Results:

Painful menstruation and difficulties in passing men-strual blood; painful intercourse; infibulation often requires cut-ting the scar for intercourse which results often in infections; cysts, keloid formation, urinary tract infections and infertility. In later life some womyn may become incontinent due to fistula formation(rupture of the vagina) which is very difficult to repair.

Psychological Problems:

Only some limited studies have been made. The psychological trauma from prolonged pain (anaesthetics are not used) , from coital problems and acute childbirth complications due to the operations, have not been studied; the damaging effects of sexual castration (fridgidity) have been ignored so far.

In case of complications or death of the child, **neither** the operator **nor** the operation are held responsible. The tools used are mainly special knives or razor blades or *any available* sharp instrument. Asepsis is unknow. The operations are often performed on the ground, on the floors of huts, under trees, etc. In West Africa dirt and ashes are thrown on the wound to stop the bleeding. Usually several people hold the child down. Anaesthetics are not used in the traditional environment; instead the child is **threatened** and **persecuted** for crying.

At present, the operations are also performed in the cities in the modern sector by trained midwives (dayas) as well as trained male nurses, also in clinics and hospitals. Stripped of all traditional myths, the operation is exposed as the **sexual castration** it is. Girls who are not excised are refused for marriage; therefore fathers, afraid to lose the bride price, have them 'done' at an ever earlier age before they can resist. Operators in many countries make a good living from the operations, physicians are also becoming increasingly involved.

Is it happening here? **Yes**. In the past it was used as a cure for masturbation. Today, it is also used to correct genital ambiguities. It is also sometimes 'imported' by certain groups.

PURPOSE / REASONS GIVEN

The **real purpose** is to **extinguish** sexual pleasure and keep the womyn under **male sexual control**. Therefore men *refuse* to marry a girl who has not been operated on.

The reasons given are morality, faithfulness to the husband (who has several wives) ,the preservation of the family. It is believed that womyn who are not operated on cannot have children -- a womyn's worth depends on the number of children she has. Many people believe that excision is a custom decreed by the ancestors, therefore, it must be complied with. Without excision a girl cannot become an adult member of the society. The clitoris in West Africa is considered a **dangerous organ** that can kill a baby at birth, and make a man impotent.

Infibulation is practiced to **guarantee virginity** (visibly) -- a bride is inspected *before* the bride price is paid to ensure that she is well closed. Infibulation is done by Moslem population groups because of the importance they attach to virginity and chastity. Traditionally, infibulation is performed on much younger children than excision. Wives are re-infibulated when their husband leaves for an extended time. In Sudan and South-ern Egypt the procedure is called Tahur, or "cleansing". In West Africa it is practised for the same reasons -- to ensure a virgin bride. The reasons given for all operations are contradictory and always incompatible with biological facts. They are however, believed by the people involved who have no access to health facts and modern information.

This material has been excerpted from Womyn and Health:Summary Facts **WIN** News. This is an open, partici-patory network by, for, and about womyn.
For subscription write to:

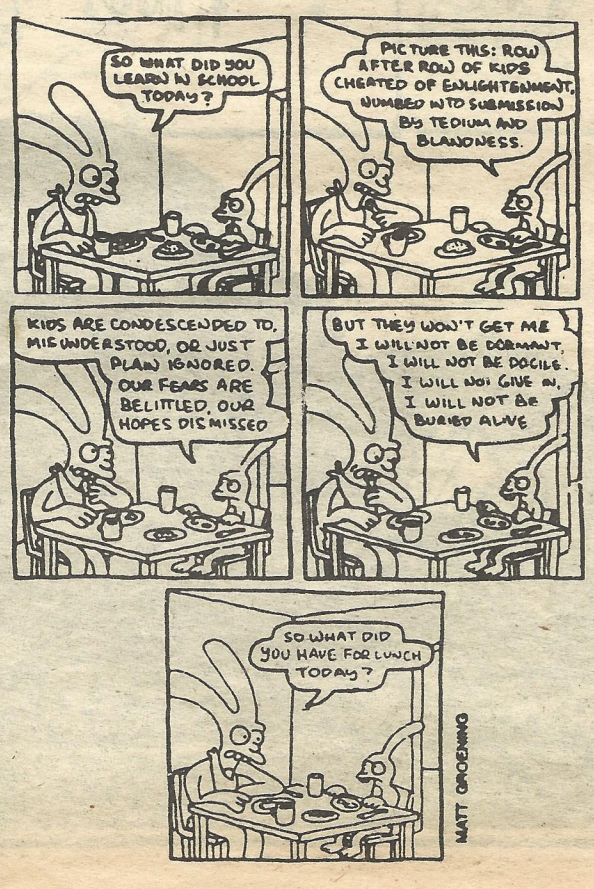
WIN News
Fran P. Hosken, Editor.
187 Grant St.
Lexington, Massachusets
02173 USA.

FUCK SCHOOL !

Note: We plan to keep running school stopping suggestions as long as we have info and examples to give. If you have an idea on how to stop schools, or have done an action yourself, send in a report (anonymously, if you'd like) and we'll publicize it. Also try photocopying this and the first ***FUCK SCHOOL*** *article (issue 5) and distribute it at your school. Thanks to all those who have already done so ... keep it up.*

In response to vast sabotage of school buildings, schoolboards are starting to use technology to stop vandalism. In Toronto, the school board has spent $600 000 vandal-proofing its schools, although it has not yet completed the job. For the past eight years it's been replacing broken windows with a shatter-proof plastic because, the board says "our major expenditure used to be replacing broken glass". Although insurance covers most of their property, **their windows aren't insured** because of high premiums.

Also the school board is instaling a heat and motion sensitive electronic alarm system, so **be careful**. The board admits that "if kids are not detected quickly they can cause a major mess by <u>turning on the fire hoses</u>". They say this happens every 2 or 3 years.



This March some kids struck back at their school by breaking in and turning on fire hoses on the main and second floors. The flooding was so extensive that water poured out the main doors into the street. The action caused $100 000 damage, mostly to electrical fixtures, telephones, carpeting, books, and ceiling tiles, requiring the installation of a new ceiling. Water also ruined the gymnasiums floor, causing the wood to lift.

The board estimates vandalism cost them $194 168 last year, $235 873 in 1984 and $266 331 in 1983.

During 1983 there were 833 cases of vandalism against Toronto area schools, 841 in 1984, 798 in 1985, and 280 cases until the end of May this year.

This kind of thing is happening all over the country, even the world. A simple action like the fire hose one can disable your entire school! So in the months ahead, as you sit through day after day of shit in school, dream up and carry out new ways of subverting your school. It's fun, It's easy, it can mean the difference between a day of boredom and a day of freedom. But remember ... **don't get caught!** Security is **essential.**

If the windows on the first floor are shatterproof, **aim higher** cause they probably won't have repaired the 2nd floor ones yet. Check out the alarm system to see if it is one of the new ones, and if it isn't you've got the perfect oppourtunity to hit them in the bank account, **they've told us how.** If you need more ideas on how to fuck up your school (or work place), check out **FUCK SCHOOL** in issue 5 of RN and have a good time.

ROBERT AND TOMEK UPDATE

Robert Chechlacz and **Thomas Lupanow** are Polish political prisoners condemned to 25 and 13 years imprisonment respectively for having accidentally killed a militiaman just after the declaration of the state of war, whilst trying to disarm him.

Our friends have now been in prison for four years and this demand reaches us, all the more insistent as their hope of getting out of prison diminishes.

Members of the Association have recently met the families of the prisoners. They obtained the following details on their present situation:

Robert and Tomek are forced to work eight hours a day in gaol, producing mechanical components.

The mail addressed directly to the prisoners no longer reaches them. We ask you to communicate with them through their families.

Their health is deteriorating, notably due to chronic malnutrition.

Tomek goes to evening classes and is on the verge of taking the equivalent of his 'A' levels. Robert is, on the other hand, deprived of this right. Classified as a "dangerous" detainee (category 'D' applicable to criminals), he is subject to special surveillance. The penitentiary administration affirms that there is not enough staff to watch over Robert during the evening classes ... Let's remember that this discrimination is contrary to penal law.

Prisoners of concrete, Robert and Tomek are also prisoners of silence, such a heavy silence that the two most heavily sentenced political prisoners in Poland are also the least known to international and Polish public opinion; in such a way that it is not only their freedom, but their very existence, which is being denied.

Censored by the principal media, ignored by the "humanitarian" organizations, timidly mentioned by the clandestine movement in Poland, the fate of Robert and Tomek would remain unknown without the publicity that the libertarian press of the whole world is devoting to it.

A movement of international solidarity is thus also taking shape on behalf of the young people of Grodisk, which is beginning to break down their isolation. We wish to thank all those who have contributed to it. As the latest letter of Jadwiga Chechlacz testifies, it is not excessive to assert that it is this movement which is enabling our friends to survive in prison today. This success comforts us in our struggle as well as obliging us to pursue it.

For their freedom and ours,

The Friends of Robert and Tomek
March 30 1986

For all contacts:

Les Amis de Robert et Tomek -- BP 4 -- 93 301 Aubervilliers Cedex, France.

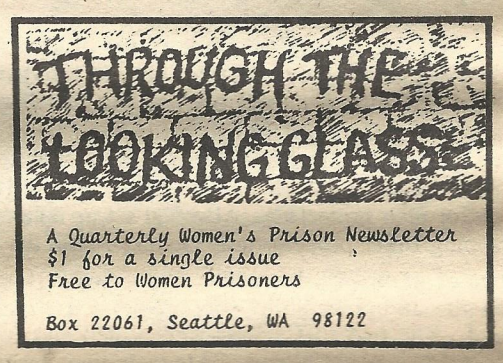
Financial Support:

Les Amis de Robert et Tomek -- CCP 6 603 83 N Paris, France.

For more information:

Polish Workers Solidarity Committee, P.O. Box 284, Main Station, St. Catherine, Ontario, L2R 6T7, Canada

or see issue 5 of **Reality Now**, page 3.



PRISONERS CORRESPONDENCE LIST

RICH RENZO

My name is Rich, I'm an Anarchist and listen to lots of Hardcore Punk. I'm 19 and would like to correspond with any Anarchist who lives anywhere in the world.

Rich Renzo #201803 LW
Mid. State Corr. Fac.
P.O.Box 866
Range Road
Wrightstown, N.J.
USA 08562

AARON HILL

Twenty seven year old Anarchist convict, agnostic with ideas toward Native American beliefs seeks correspondence with free thinking people, and that one special lady warrior who would be interested down the road in a relationship of self-sufficiency.

Aaron Hill #36686
Box 2500
Lincoln, Nebr.
USA 68502

CHRIS BANDIT

I am strictly anti- government, anarchist. I need other comrades, friends, to write and send any info. they may have. I'm currently a prisoner "doing time" and I can't correspond with other prisoners.

I'm also in the hole, so have no contact with no one. Please write and let me know if you can help out, okay? Thanks. A friend and comrade:

Chris Bandit #801734A
IMCC
Box A
Oakdale, Iowa
USA 52319

WILLIAM (BILLY) JOHNSON

In jail for still 5 years out of a 12 year sentence. Wish to hear from other Anarks.....

William (Billy) Johnson
#2577
P.O. Box 100
Somers, Ct 06071

SIWATU TUMAINI (aka: ROBERT THROWER)

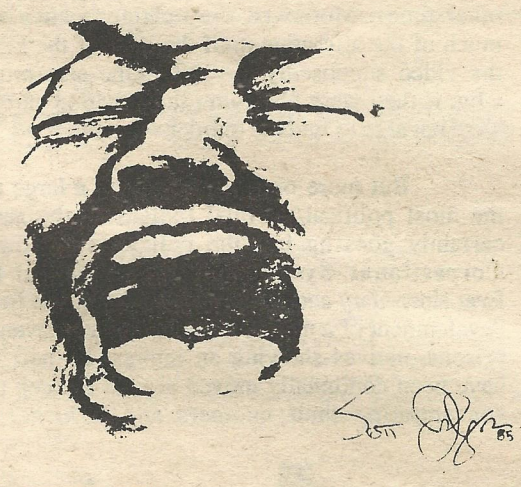
Siwatu is a young Black POW incarcerated in a Colorado prison. As part of a squad of "urban guerrillas" in the US, he was a victim of the CIA's COINTELPRO program and is now serving a life sentence. He has much to say and would appreciate correspondence.Write to him at:

Robert Thrower #47717
Box 600 A1
Canon City, Colorado
USA 81212

RICHARD MAFUNDI LAKE

Mafundi Lake is a Black man being held in Alabama under "trumped up rape charges". A strong figure in the Black liberation movement in the USA, he says he is being harassed because of his revolutionary political activism, charged with a crime he never committed. Write to him at:

Richard Mafundi Lake
P.O. Box 37
Atmore, Al
36503 USA



DONALD STUTLER
RALPH DEAN OMAR

Stutler as well as Omar are there for a couple of years. Stutler has several civil suits going on for him. They are both interested in getting zines.

Donald Stutler # 184 967
Ralph Dean Omar # 169 464
Southern Ohio Correctional Facility
P.O. Box 45699
Lucasville, OH. 45699 0001

PAUL H. BORRONI

Serving a 35 year sentence. Spent some time in Special Administrative Unit for having a positive test of drug (pot) in his urine. Those tests are dubious and may be tampered with by said authorities.

Paul H. Borroni
#36090,
Box 900
Jefferson City, MO
USA 65102

JAMIE ADCOX

Is there on a drug frame up charge. Got himself a lawyer but was swindled out of his meager cash. So write him to liven up his spirits.

Jamie Adcox
047464
Missouri State Pen.
P.O. Box 900, Jefferson City, Mo, 65102

EMERY ALLEN BEVERLY

Up for parole for 4th time in 86 but he may not get it.... Out for 88. Want to hear from other Anarks on outside, as a Federal prisoner cannot get any mail from any other prisoners.

ESCAPED

Emery Allen Beverly
#07019
218, P.O. Box 1000, Unit 2-D
Otisville, N.Y. 10963

ROBERT SHANE GREEN

This Libertarian will be eligible for parole in the 1990's if he's lucky. He knew CARL HARP the Anark prisoner killed by guards at Washington State Pen. in Sept, 81.

Robert Shane Green
80795 011
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, Kansas 66048

SEAN MACGRATH

MacGrath is in phase 2. The wearing of jumpsuits of different colours has divided the inmates as those that do not conform get into serious hassles (no visits etc.) . Would like to hear from inmates and others.

Sean MacGrath
0 46803
P.O Box 100 DSU/ 9 BLCK
Walpole, Mass. 07071

THE CASE OF LEONARD PELTIER

Imagine, if you would for a minute, living in a room the size of your bathroom. Imagine spending most of your life over the last ten years enclosed in such a place. Three walls and bars. Imagine the feeling of nearly constant confinement, walls closing in on you, and the continuous battle to suppress all thought of such. Imagine being there not because you are a criminal, a threat to society, but because you devoted your life to the well- being of your people. Imagine having to be cautious of every move you make, for eyes are forever on you, waiting for you to slip. Imagine knowing that those who are your keepers wish you dead and have, in the past, tried to assassinate you. Imagine living this life, imprisoned by a frame-up, by a massive conspiracy by the Government of the United States of America. Imagine the life of **Leonard Peltier.**

Leonard Peltier is a Chippewa/Lakota **American Indian Movement (AIM)** activist who was framed on the charge of aiding and abetting in the deaths of two FBI agents on the **Pine Ridge** Lakota Reservation in South Dakota on June 26, 1975.

After the Lakota/AIM occupation of **Wounded Knee** in 1973 there were many trials of AIM activists and sympathizers which occurred because the FBI began a campaign of 'targetting' AIM activists. Over 300 unsolved and uninvestigated murders of traditional Lakota took place before the Lakota elders asked AIM activists to come in for their protection. AIM had set up a camp on the Jumping Bulls' property near Oglala, within the Pine Ridge reservation. On June 26th, 1975, two FBI agents entered the Jumping Bulls' property and a shoot-out occurred. The two FBI agents were killed and Joseph Stunts, a 21-year-old Coeur d'Alene Indian, was also killed. It would seem that the FBI agents went in as part of a coordinated action, for there were numerous FBI and **BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs]** agents in the area and within two hours over 200 agents and others were at the site of the shoot out. Also, at the same time, in Washington D.C., pro-government Indians of Pine Ridge were negotiating away 133 000 acres of Lakota land.

The federal Government indicted four Indians -- Leonard Peltier, Dino Butler, Bob Robideau, and James Eagle. Charges were later dropped against Eagle. Dino Butler and Bob Robideau were tried in Cedar Rapids, Iowa; they used the defense of self-defense in a long-continued atmosphere of official harassment and they were found not guilty.

Leonard Peltier was arrested in Canada and held in chains in **Okalla Prison.** He was extradited from Canada on statements coerced (by FBI agents) from **Myrtle Poor Bear** implicating Leonard in the deaths of the agents. Myrtle was told that if she did not sign the statements she would end up like **Anna Mae Aquash.** Anna Mae was one of the hundreds of people who were detained and questioned in the days after the shoot-out. FBI agent **David Price** told Anna Mae he would see her dead if she did not talk, and within a year she was found with a bullet in the back of her head. Myrtle was shown pictures of Anna Mae's corpse. At the beginning of Leonard's trial, Myrtle came to the defense and asked to testify about what the FBI did to her, but the judge ruled that "if believed, Myrtle Poor Bear's testimony would shock the conscience of the court."

After the loss of the Iowa trial, the government decided to go all out to get Leonard Peltier. First, they shifted the jurisdiction from Iowa to North Dakota and **Judge Paul Benson** (a Nixon appointee) became the new judge. The FBI and federal prosecutors denied defense requests for evidence such as ballistics reports, autopsy reports and other evidence which would have aided Leonard's defense. Judge Benson denied the defense the right to present to the jury testimony about FBI misconduct around the case. Despite only very circumstantial evidence against Leonard, he was convicted and sentenced to imprisonment for two lifetimes.

A Prayer for Today
Grandfather, we are humble and we may sometimes stumble,
but we come to you with an open heart and mind,
We look to the Four Directions and to Mother Earth for
Peace and Harmony,
"Let us join hands and work together as one"
and that you guide and strengthen us in our Daily Walk of Life.
Mita-Kuye-Oyasin "Bj

With his case in the Appeals Court, Leonard struggled in prison for better prison conditions and for the right of Indian prisoners to practice their religion. This led to a fast by Leonard Peltier, Al Garza and Standing Deer in **Marion Federal Prison** after the lockdown. Positive effects are still being felt from this fast.

Through the Freedom of Information Act, Leonard's defense was able to get 12 000 pages of FBI files on his case. These files contradicted or threw into question every point of "evidence" used against Leonard at his trial.

In April 1984, the Appeals Court ordered the trial judge to hold an "evidentiary hearing" on the meaning of a telegram from the FBI office in Washington D.C. to the field office in South Dakota, which stated that the gun attributed to Leonard could not have fired the bullet which was used in Leonard's trial to link him to the "murders". At the hearing in October 1984, when the FBI ballistics expert was caught in perjured testimony and later came in and changed his testimony, the trial judge, in his decision, stated that since the agent came back and changed his testimony, he only added to his reliability.

The Appeals Court agreed to hear oral arguments and these were made in October 15, 1985. The judges' questions demolished the Government's case against Leonard in a court room with many supporters. In front of the courthouse,supporters held a vigil which had been preceeded by months of rallies, vigils, a walk, and thousands of petitions and letters sent to the Court. The U.S. Attorney acknowledged to the judges that the Government does not know who killed the agents, they cannot prove that the gun used was in Leonard's possession, and cannot prove the connection between the shell casing found in the agent's car and the gun Leonard is said to have used.

People of all colours and backgrounds should come together and support Leonard Peltier, not only because of the above reasons, but also because it affects them. The Government *will* use, and *has* used, these same tactics against all people who have stood up to their shameful game. Leonard Peltier's case is the one case that we can prove beyond any doubt that the Government conspired to frame an activist. Thus if we can get Leonard a new trial, this will be a step in the struggle against Governmental suppression and abuse of activists.

In Solidarity,
Arthur J. Miller

We are now waiting for the decision from the Appeals Court. There is a great need for people to let the Appeals Court judges know they support a new trial for Leonard Peltier. Please write letters of support to:

Judges Gerald Heaney, John Gibson and Donald Ross
U.S. Court of Appeals (Eight Circuit)
1114 Market Street
St. Louis, Missouri
63101 USA

For more information:

The International Office of the Leonard Peltier Defense Committee
P.O. Box 6455 ,Kansas City , KS
66106 U.S.A.
Telephone: (816) 531-LPSG

Letters of Solidarity:

Leonard Peltier #89637-132
P.O. Box 1000
Leavenworth, Kansas
66048 U.S.A.

NOTE: We are sad to report that the Eighth Circuit Court of Appeals upheld Leonard' Peltier's conviction. In the last week of August Leonard was to go before the Parole board, we have not yet heard the outcome of this.

ACTIVISTS CHARGED

Two Indians have been charged with first degree murder following the stabbing death of a white prisoner in the maximum security Edmonton Institution. Phillip Bearshirt and Robie Pelletier are currently being held in the hole following the August 24th killing.

The administration is using the incident to launch a major attack against the most vocal and prominent Indians being held in the prison. Several activists -- some of whom were not even in the yard at the time of the killing -- have been thrown in the hole. And only the intervention of several outside individuals and groups were able to keep them from being sent to the **Special Handling Units** -- the Super Max Units -- in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan.

Several aspects of the case raise serious questions as to the legitimacy of the charges against these two men. The official story is that a number of prisoners were in the yard drinking homebrew around four o'clock. When the guards went to break it up, they withdrew because of the hostility of the prisoners. The warden was quoted in the local tabloid as saying that "a group of native inmates were flexing their muscles, harassing other inmates and not responding to staff requests." Disturbances, before and after the killing were the reason given for throwing the other Indians in the hole.

Now the obvious question is why the guards would withdraw from a potentially riotous situation involving alcohol. This is especially strange considering that they are saying that disturbances were already taking place. After all, they are the ones with the guns and are in charge of 'keeping the peace.' Guards and the administration seldom hesitate to play the heavies any other time. Moreover, they claim to have videotaped much of the afternoon until the time of the killing when the video supposedly ran out. One also must wonder why, if they were observing the situation carefully, they were not able to find the murder weapon.

But more ominously, having a large number of the most political/spiritual Indians in the same prison certainly goes against the policy as practised by the **Correctional System of Canada** (CSC) for years. Ever since Gary and Dino Butler provided the focus for the development of a more conscious Indian movement in the prisons, natives showing an interest in their traditions, have been continually moved around to keep them from concentrating their numbers and influence. Phillip Bearshirt was instrumental in gaining the right to have sweetgrass in the SHUs; amongst those harassed but not charged, was Stuart Stonechild, the president of the Brotherhood and Willie Blake who has been one of the strongest fighters for the right to have spiritual rights inside the Iron Houses. And this incident has a given the CSC the rationalization for continuing the harassment.

The CSC has a major problem on their hands in that, in spite of all their lurid tales about how terrible the prisoners are, they are unable to keep the Special Handling Units filled. Currently there are 64 cells empty in the two prisons at Laval prison in Quebec and Prince Albert. Another prison nearing completion in Renous, New Brunswick was intended to hold prisoners too dangerous for the other prisoners in. (It was in fact built more to help stimulate the devastated local economy.) And as the critics had pointed out, there simply are not enough 'violent' prisoners to justify its operation. A major

campaign against the strongest Brotherhood in the system would both act to hinder the development of spiritually stong Indians in the prison system, and help fill the empty cells.

Even Bearshirt's presence in the prison seemed to be a function of the connivance of the CSC. Bearshirt was in Archambault outside of Montreal when he was due for release. He was asked whether or not he wanted to be released from Montreal or Edmonton, much closer to his Calgary home. His wife, Lynn Bigplume drove up to Edmonton the day before the actual release. She was told he had been sent back to the SHU. The next day, Phillip had already been sent to Calgary by bus before Lynn returned.

On arriving in Calgary without Lynn to meet him, Bearshirt checked into a motel, only to go for a walk later during which he was arrested for assault. This landed him back in the local jail -- where he was beaten by seven guards -- for violation of his mandatory supervision. He quickly ended up in the Edmonton Institution to find himself, one month later, charged with first degree murder which carries a 25 year minimum.

The CSC has long ago given up any claims that they are there to 'rehabilitate' the prisoners. Yet not even they should expect that someone can go from the Special Handling Unit where contact, even with the other prisoners is severely limited, to the 'hole' with its twenty-three hour lock-up, and then to be released to the streets without some time in general population to become accustomed to the sight and sound of other people.

So here we are, with one man dead, two more facing 25 years, several more in the 'hole' threatened with the punishment of being sent to the SHU. And the prison administration, negligent by their own admission, is making political hay talking about the 'bad cons' and the drunken Indians.

Write to Phillip Bearshirt and Robbie Pelletier at:

Box 2209
Edmonton, Alta

Contributions for the cost of finding lawyers, paying for telephone calls and trips to visit can to made to:

Lynn Bigplume
3700 Anderson SW, Box 84
Calgary, Alta
T2W 3C4 Canada

* ONAWAY *

American Indian cultures are today being threatened by western technology and by modern materialism. The Onaway Trust exists to give all possible support to the Indian nations now struggling for both spiritual and physical survival in their own lands. Onaway holds that many of the answers to the white world's problems are inherent in the beliefs and cultures of the Indians. If we do not help them to preserve their traditional life-ways then those vital answers may be lost forever, and our own children's heritage could be all that we now subconsciously fear. If you are interested in learning more of Onaway's work for the Indians, and of the Indians themselves, both past and present, send £1 for information and specimen copy of the Onaway magazine to: *THE SECRETARY. THE ONAWAY TRUST, 275 MAIN STREET, SHADWELL, LEEDS LS17 8LH, YORKSHIRE, ENGLAND.*

The Screaming in Our Hearts

The cries of humankind are everywhere, but men are too busy with their little mouse lives to hear Some deny the presence of these sounds, others do not hear them at all..., and still others hear them so clearly that it is screaming in their hearts!

They are determined to destroy all People whose ways do not reflect their own. They have set the People one against the other, and will kill whichever is left when the wars have ended! *(from Seven Arrows)*

The threat to which this mobilization responds is the attempt to remove Native people from their homelands. While our perspective has been that the removal is to allow the minerals exploitation and that there is no real Navajo and Hopi dispute, this is somewhat irrelevent. The U.S. government does not have the right, the ability or the wisdom to intervene in these people's lives. This would be true even if there were no coal, even if there was a dispute.

The threat is the destruction of indigeneous people, the destruction of their spirituality, their culture and their lives. The threat is to not only the Hopi and Navajo people, but to all the Native peoples of the Americas. If the U.S. is allowed to carry out this removal, all indigeneous people are endangered, all over the world.

There is also further deterioration of the reputation and character of the American people. The U.S. as a "nation" wil be irrevocably wounded. Can the "U.S." have any integrity if it continues to perpetuate injustices against the Native people of the land's on which it resides? Further, could any population group within the U.S., defined as Native, or by race, culture, even sexual preference, be secure against similar elimination by this same government? As Muskogee Creek Elder Phillip Deere was fond of telling us, "If you let them remove us, they'll come for you next."

The Earth itself is also at risk, due to what are oftn called the "environmental" effects. The area being cleared is the Black Mesa, and nobody denies (least of all the Tribal chairman) that strip coal mining is the future for these lands. Yet the National Academy of Sciences, several national environmental groups and the Hopi Prophecies are in agreement about such mining: it would seriously disrupt the ecological balance of the four corners area, converting it into a National Sacrifice Area. The soil and water would be permenently destroyed, without which the people and their cultures cannot survive. Again, "experts" on climate modification and the prophetic teachings agree: such mining and ecological destruction would cause shifts in the weather system of the entire world.

The Earth, the world, cannot afford to lose these voices, the voices of the indigeneous people who continue to live in harmony with the Earth. It is important to recognize the seriousness of the removal, that it does in fact constitute the Crime of Genocide, as recognized under the U.N. Convention of 1948. This is more than "cultural genocide." The scientific, anthropological and medical evidence all show that a sizable proportion of the people removed would literally die as a consequence of the removal. At stake here is the complicity of the American people in genocide.

There is no choice about standing with the traditional people. We already are. The issue is survival, for all of us, for all creatures.

BIG MOUNTAIN HARRASSED

NOTE: With the deadline now passed there has been no forced removal as of yet, but the harrassment goes on with near constant surveilance. At one point 50 to 70 Navajo police and a B.I.A. SWAT team, supported by two helicopters trespassed into the Sovereign Dine Nation territory at Big Mountain and one Dine POW was taken. The FBI is also 'investigating' the resisters. ***Support is still needed.***

LESBIAN AND GAY CIRCLE STANDS IN SOLIDARITY WITH BIG MOUNTAIN

This is a statement from the Lesbian and Gay circle held during the spring gathering of support groups at Big Mountain, 1986.

Last night a group of us Lesbian sisters and gay brothers, and other friends gathered around a fire to discuss ways of passing on the message of the struggle against relocation, and the joy of Big Mountain. We promised to work through our media, newspapers, radio and personal contacts, to inform other Lesbian and Gay people around this land and across the seas.

We remembered too the many relocations that many of us, both the living and our ancestors have suffered. We remember the relocation from our childhood homes, the journey from small town to the city, from the land to the urban ghettoes, from our direct families to our new-found communities. Most of us at the circle had european ancestors, and we remembered the Lesbian and Gay dead gassed along with Jews, gypsies, Anarchists, Communists and others in the holocaust. We remember the burning of the witches and faggots and other pagans and Earth lovers in the inquisition.

We remember the various life experiences of those who have brought the life blood of many foreign lands to this continent. We remember the many brothers and sisters of the indigeneous peoples of this land, in their struggle to nurture a new growth in their lives and spirituality. And we take heart from the ways of many Indian nations of embracing people of all sexualities in the circle of life.

We remember the all-encompassing spirit of Mother Earth, and we take heart and inspiration from the lives of the Dineh and Hopi around Big Mountain, for the balance in their lives, and for their reverence for all life. We give thanks for the care they give to this place.

In our "family", many of us have been spiritual people, most of us merely humble folk, many of us live lives separated from the natural way. We hope to take what we have learned here to our brothers and sisters who live in the midst of horror that passes for "civilization. We hope that others of us will work and pray for the people of Big Mountain, and for the safety of Mother Earth. We are all relatives.

And finally we thank the elders and others who have welcomed us here.

... Make The Circle Stronger !

This logo is a reminder of the pink triangle gays were forced to wear in Nazi concentration camps.

-Women's Press

A STATEMENT FROM CAROL MANNING

I was born on January 3, 1956 in Kezar Falls, Maine. My mother and father both worked in the woolen mills all their lives. I met Tom and we married. I was only 17 years old. In 1973, I had my first child Jeremy. Also at this time we moved to Portland, Maine and became involved in a prison reform organization named SCAR. I became involved in the Women's Movement and helped open a bookstore, Red Star North, which included a free-to-prisoners book program. During the time between 73-75, a few of us grew together politically. We became targets of the pigs and were forced underground to do our work. I have been active in the underground for 10 years. During these years underground I had two more children, Tamara, age 5, and Jonathan, age 3. For my children and the children of the world, now and in the future, I have a commitment to see that U.S. imperialism is defeated.

The Mannings are members of the **Ohio 7**, white anti-imperialists charged by the government with conspiracy and ten armed actions against U.S. military facilities and recruiting offices, South African government offices, IBM, Union Carbide, Motorola, Honeywell and General Electric. These actions were claimed by the **United Freedom Front** in solidarity with the people of Azania and Central America. The other members of the Ohio 7 are Ray Levasseur, Pat Gros (whose case was severed from the current trial on a legal technicality), Jaan Lamaan, Barbara Curzi-Lamaan and Richard Williams. Tom Manning and Richard Williams also face charges in the death of a New Jersey State trooper.

During and immediately after several court appearances this past year, members of the Ohio 7 were beaten and stun-gunned by authorities as punishment for waging a political defense. On March 4, 1986, after deliberating for more than three weeks, a jury delivered a partial verdict convicting them on a variety of charges which carry long jail sentences. When they were first captured in 1985, the **FBI** disappeared the Mannings' three children for almost three months. For more information see the "Ohio 7 Convicted" article in this issue.

Once they had Tom and I at the FBI office in Norfolk, I was asked if I would like to see my children. So they brought the children in to see me for about four to five minutes. My hands were handcuffed behind my back at this time. The children were all very upset, the two small children had a very scared look on their faces and Jeremy looked like he had been crying. I asked Jeremy what they were doing to them. He told me they were asking him alot of questions about people he knew and places he had lived.

All three of the children started crying and the FBI agents took them away. I never did see Jonathan and Tamara again until their release. As I was being put into a car, I saw Jeremy sitting in a car with an FBI agent watching us. It was obvious that this was a planned psychological action by the FBI, for Jeremy to see his parents all chained up and escorted by many agents with guns and driven away.

In the months of May and June, every time Tom and I had to enter the courtroom we brought up that our children were being held hostage and were being interrogated by the FBI and the New Jersey State Police. On May 13th, in New York City, I went to court for a detention hearing. We brought up the facts about the children. The Assistant U.S. Attorney Gallagher denied that there was any questioning of the children. He later that day told the press the only questioning he was aware of was after our arrest the children were questioned about their need of clothing. I suppose he believes we are going to believe this! We also had learned that Judge Flippen had given the FBI his O.K. for the interrogation of Jeremy concerning explosives, saying the general public safety was at risk. The interrogation took place on May 3rd. Tom and I were becoming very frustrated because our attempts to get the children released were not working. The support on the outside was starting to build but slowly.

So Tom and I decided the only way left to fight for the children's release was for him to go on a hunger strike. He went on this hunger strike on May 23rd.

Then on May 31 my sister was approved as a home for my children by the Pennsylvania Social Services. The Norfolk Social Services had said in the past that once this was done and they recieved the papers from Pennsylvania, they would hold a hearing and release the children. Well, once she was approved, they changed their story once again and said it would be at least another two or three weeks. They also added that none of the family members could get the children. That the children may go to a foster home. So on June 4th I also started a hunger strike. This government was getting away with a vicious crime against my children. They had held my children for six weeks at this time and it was clear that they were not ready to release them to anyone!

The support on the outside was really building at this time also. There were demonstrations in New York City, Boston, Vermont, Chicago and San Francisco for the release of the children. **Ramsey Clark** and **William Kunstler** had made their feelings known

through a joint statement (see below) and had made calls. With the help of many people, the pressure was building and a June 20th hearing was set up. I had been told that there were other political prisoners who were also considering joining the hunger strike at that time if they were not released.

On June 20th, after eight weeks of captivity, the children were released to my sister LaVerne Mayberry. Laverne was given only physical custody and Norfolk Social Services have legal custody until they decide on permanent custody.

The children came to visit me on June 24, 25 and 26. We had about five hours together in those three days. It was very hard for us all because we were all very emotional. I could see that my children had suffered so much over those eight weeks. Even from my littlest one Jonathan, he was expressing his unhappiness at the shelter. This is what they called the place they had to stay. It sounded as though the children had been separated somewhat by age and sex from what they told me of their daily routine and of the different forms of discipline -- this place was a prison for children. There was no love and understanding, the one thing these children needed so bad at this most difficult time. I tried to ask Jeremy slowly what had happened to him and his brother and sister over these weeks. He was very upset and told me he really didn't like to think about any of this. So I tried not to pressure him to answer anything, for this is what the FBI had been doing to him for eight weeks. Over the three days I was able to find out a few things.

One thing was for sure, the children had been put through hell and the FBI had terrorized my children. Jeremy told me he had been questioned around five or six times and that he was very scared. If he could not answer a question they would ask the same question over and over to him. I told Jeremy that the FBI had said they had spent time just playing with them and asked him if this was true. His answer was NO, this was not true.

He told me he did not know what was happening from day to day--they never told him anything at the shelter. He did not even know what was happening to them the day they were released or to whom they were being released. He said that he did not like the shelter at all and just wanted to leave. He also told me that all three of them were very unhappy and cried alot. Jeremy is having a hard time adjusting to things, and emotionally is very confused. I am afraid there is alot of feelings of guilt. I think that because he answered their questions he feels he has put his mother and father in trouble. I also feel that he was threatened and told not to tell anyone about what they did -- what was said -- so on!

This US government has tortured my children mentally and made them suffer -- in hopes they would gain something. That is what the government is all about -- to gain whatever they want -- no matter who they have to attack or kill in order to get it. My children are not the first in this country, nor are they the last. We must build against these attacks on our children. For the state sees our children as a way to help destroy revolutionary anti-imperialist resistance fighters.

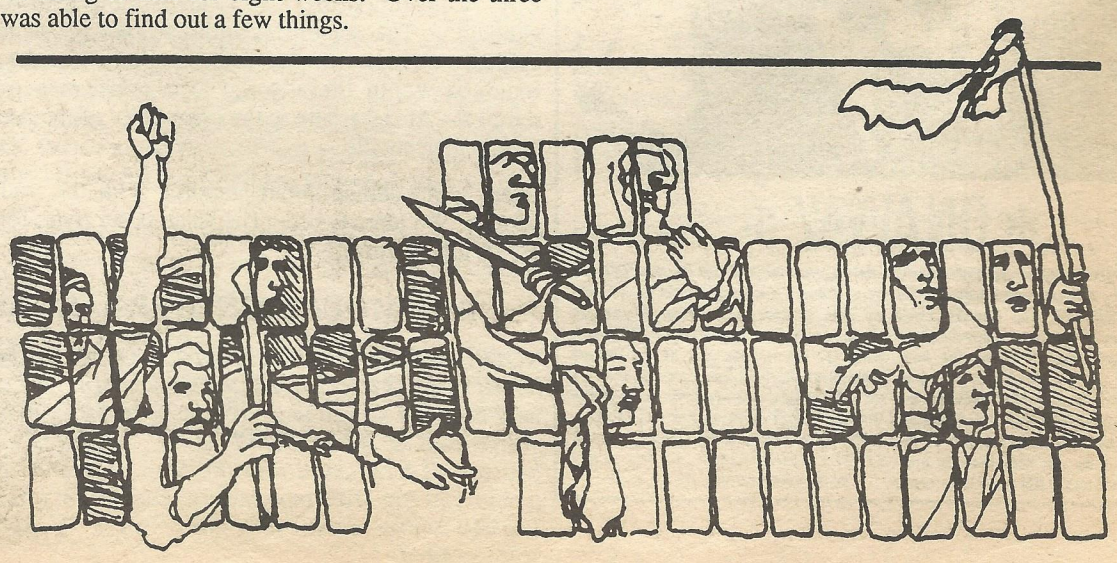
We must show people who the **real** Terrorists are!

STATEMENT BY RAMSEY CLARK AND WILLIAM KUNSTLER

We are appalled at the action of the Virginia authorities in refusing to permit three young children of Thomas and Carol Manning to be cared for by their relatives during the incarcerations of their parents. The only possible motive for not permitting the children to be united, during these trying times, with members of their family is to harass the Mannings by holding the children hostage so they can be interrogated by the FBI and the New Jersey State Police. This type of medieval torture is very similar to that employed against Kathy Boudin (and other political defendants in New York) when she was, among other things, not permitted to touch her infant son until a federal court struck down this inhuman prohibition.

We will do everything in our power to see to it that these children are freed from their status as pawns in the custody of the Commonwealth of Virginia and returned to homes where they can recieve the loving care of devoted close relatives. It is perhaps an unfortunate sign of the times in which we live that a five-year-old girl and two boys, three and eleven, are held incommunicado by state officials in order to facilitate the prosecution of theri parents. It brings to mind a similar use of young German children who were encouraged to inform on members of their families by the minions of the **Third Reich**.

June 1985



OHIO 7 CONVICTED

On March 4, after a record sixteen days of deliberation, a Brooklyn federal court jury convicted six of the so-called "**Ohio 7**" on 27 conspiracy counts concerning bombings of military and corporate buildings in Westchester, Queens, the Bronx and Long Island. A mistrial was declared on 39 remaining counts, where the jury declared itself deadlocked. Each of the four men in the group was convicted on the next day of an additional bombing. No sentencing date has been set for the six, who face jail terms of 25 to 65 years.

Here we go again with the million dollar question: who are the real conspirators? In this case, it's the seven people accused of being the **United Freedom Front**, on the other side are the heads of state, judges, and the ruling class. The seven--Raymond Luc Levassuer, Patricia Gross, Carol Ann Manning (the only one to be acquitted), Thomas William Manning, Richard Charles Williams, Barbara Curzi and Jaan Karl Laaman--have been on trial for a series of bombings carried out between 1982 and 1985. The targets were offices of **South African Airlines, IBM, Union Carbide** and other large companies who make vast profits from murder. They deny all charges and plead "guilty of being innocent."

While in jail, they have all been kept in solitary confinement, as the state *conveniently* forgets that everyone is innocent until proven guilty. They've been stun-gunned twice. Once was in court when they weren't allowed to present their opening statement. The woman had to make a strong protest against being body-searched by male guards. One father had to go on a hunger strike for thirty days to get his kids released from state custody and into the hands of relatives.

These are all people the state has no real evidence against. There are no fingerprints, no witnesses, and no dynamite was found.

An Underground Life

The "Ohio 7" (so-called by the press because five were arrested in Ohio) have been labeled by the state as criminals and terrorists but this is not so. The 7 are Freedom Fighters with clear ideas, intentions, and goals. They explained to the jury why as revolutionaries fighting the wrongs of present day society, they were forced to take up an underground life (we only need to remember the murders of members of the **Black Panther Party** to understand this). They have lived underground successfully for a number of years along with their children (Ray has been underground for ten years).

While never admitting to being the U.F.F., they consider themselves as part of the "armed revolutionary underground movement" and are in total solidarity with the actions of the U.F.F. as part of the struggle against apartheid in South Africa and against the American military machine.

Throughout the trial, Ray Levasseur (defending himself) and a team of lawyers including William M. Kunstler repeatedly destroyed all the evidence the state conjured up (including the usual plants, lies, etc.). The state at least could prove the 7 *might* have been able to do bombings since manuals on explosives were found. The state also produced coded meeting notebooks, but even their attempts at decoding (along with deliberate falsifications, changes of testimony, etc.) could not make the bombings match up with the notebooks.

The 7 all come from working class backgrounds, and have experienced all the shit the state pours on us -- fighting their economic wars, unemployment, the hell of bringing up kids in a society where kids are regarded as uneconomic or a "burden" until they're old enough to go down to the mines or the factories...

(from the Insurgent)

From left to right: Pat Gros, Ray Levasseur, Richard Williams, Carol Manning, Tom Manning, Barbara Curzi-Laaman, Jaan Laaman.

The 7 have committed the "crime" of showing solidarity with armed struggles in El Salvador, Ireland, Nicaragua, South Africa and wherever U.S. imperialism dominates and puts down people struggling for basic rights like food, shelter and healthy kids. This also includes the struggle here in the U.S. [and Canada].

"Climate of Fear"

Here's something from Ray Levasseur's opening statement: "This government talks about a climate of fear--implies a climate of fear generated by the U.F.F., which is a false claim. But they do not want to talk about the fear and terror felt by Black people in this country. They do not want to talk about **Michael Stewart**, a young Black man who was brutally beaten to death by members of NYC Transport Police, but those cops were never tried for murder. As evidence will show, the government is not one to talk about **Eleanor Bumpers**, a 67 year old Black grandmother who was shot-gunned to death by the Emergency Service Unit of the NYC Police Dept. Her murderers have never been brought to justice.

"Or **Willie Turks**, a young Black man who was beaten to death on the streets of Brooklyn--this borough we are in--by **Ku Klux Klan** thinking whites. They were never charged with murder. The government does not want to talk about the kind of bombing that recently happened in Philadelphia where eleven Black people (men, women and children) were killed when police dropped a powerful bomb on the house they were living in. The police officers have never been charged with a crime. Those are the kinds of crimes that speak of malicious intent.

"They're coldblooded crimes with the most evil intent. Government hypocrisy and racism tries to prevent us from seeing that just as in South Africa, where the struggle is for self-determination and freedom, ther is also within this country a nation, a nation of Black people who must live under real oppression, a nation with a 400 year history of pride and resistance, a nation whose goals are self-determination and freedom."

The whole of Ray's opening statement is an inspiration and shows exactly where they stand. If you want a copy, send us a donation and we'll get one to you. All proceeds go to the 7.

How can these fine revolutionaries be convicted on this kind of evidence,when the murderers of Michael Stewart go free? It's all more evidence why we can't trust the legal system or the purely legal method of struggle. Contact Address: **Ohio 7 Defense Committee** P.O. Box 530, Cathedral Station, New York, NY, 10025 USA

This article was reprinted from **Overthrow**, POB 392 Canal st. Station, N.Y.C. 10012 U.S.A. For more info about the Ohio 7 see **issue 4** of **Reality Now**; for the United Freedom Front communique for the Union Carbide bombing, see **issue 3**; for a copy of the Ohio 7 statement, ask for the **RN supplement** to issue 5.

STRIP SEARCHES

"You are told to strip naked. You are always in view of prison staff, usually about six. At times there have been as many as 15. When you are naked, your body is inspected front and rear. A warder takes hold of your hands and inspects the palms, and picks up your feet to inspect the soles. It is like a cattle market. Anyone with long hair is ordered to gather their hair up on their head. Warders search your hair. Menstruating womyn are ordered to remove their tampons or pads. If a prisoner refuses, their sanitary protection is forcefully removed and inspected.

"Womyn who refused the search were beaten, kicked, forcibly strip searched and left naked on the floor. One girl was blindfolded and badly beaten. Her legs were forced over her shoulders. She was then put on 60 days punishment."

Womyn in **Armagh Jail** in the north of Ireland are routinely subjected to degrading and humilating strip searches as described by a prisoner. Strip searching, which hadn't been practiced in Armagh for 30 years, was introduced in November 1982. Since then, nearly 2,500 strip searches have been endured by womyn, the majority of whom are unconvicted prisoners awaiting trial. Womyn as young as 15 and as old as 70 have been strip searched.

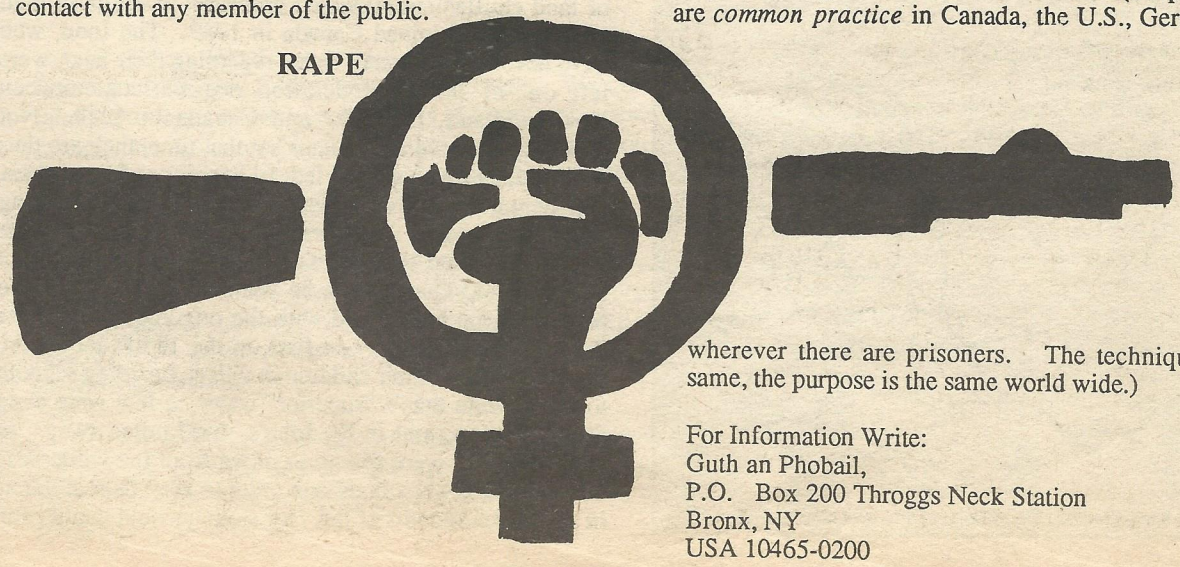
NOT FOR SECURITY

The British government defends the policy of strip searching on the grounds of security. In fact, womyn appearing in court make a 20 minute outing from the prison. They are conveyed to court in a van, locked in steel cubicles. Throughout this time, they are under escort which is supported by an **RUC** (Royal Ulster Constabulary) armed guard, and do not come into physical contact with any member of the public.

RAPE

Strip searching serves no purpose with regard to security but it is done solely to degrade and break the womyn prisoners before their trial. The womyn who endure it consider it similar to rape, a routine violation of their bodies and an affront to womyn.

We call on you to join the campaign to end the practice of strip searching in Armagh Jail. Doctors, lawyers, church groups and labor unions are among the many organizations in Ireland and Europe who are working to end this degrading practice. **Amnesty International, USA** has passed a resolution to consider strip searching as **a form of torture**. (Strip Searches are *common practice* in Canada, the U.S., Germany and wherever there are prisoners. The techniques are the same, the purpose is the same world wide.)



For Information Write:
Guth an Phobail,
P.O. Box 200 Throggs Neck Station
Bronx, NY
USA 10465-0200

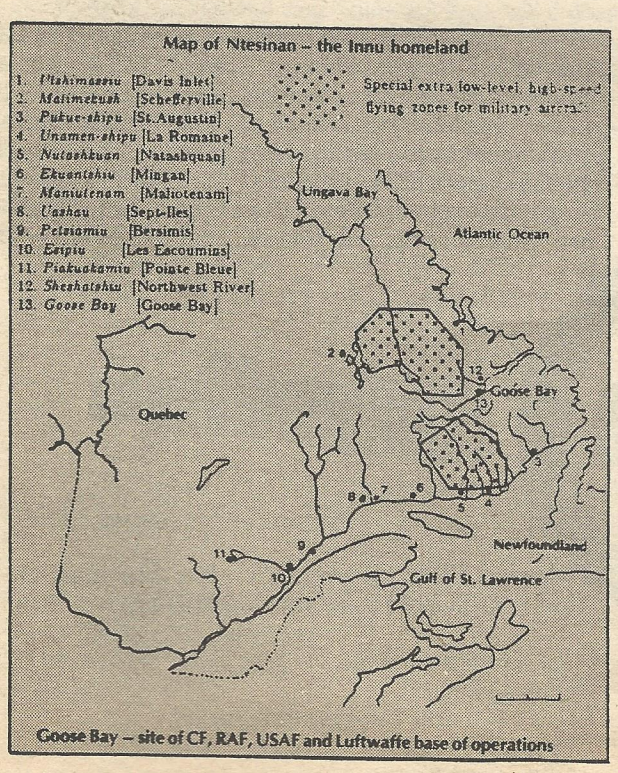
THE DEAFENING OF LABRADOR

"This Canadian Government plan (to upgrade the airbase) will enhance the possibility of Goose Bay being chosen as the site for **NATO Tactical Fighter Weapons Centre** next year, and it will provide jobs and security for local Labradorians." So said John Crosbie, Federal cabinet representative from Newfoundland and Labrador, at a government press conference heralding the new federal Goose Bay Capital Rehabilitation Plan. Under the plan $93 million will be invested for upgrading the huge World War II base by 1995. On the same occasion, in order to prove that "We are doing our share for NATO and for the preservation of peace and freedom," Brian Packford, Premier of Newfoundland and Labrador, also announced the transfer to Canada of a 50 square mile area just south of Goose Bay/Happy Valley,, for use as a target practice range - with three such more to come. The NATO testing and training centre Canada is actively soliciting is projected to bring $1 billion, as well as hundreds of fighter jets into the Goose Bay area as early as 1990.

It was just as had been feared by the **Innu** people, the owners of **Ntesinan** ("Our Land"), otherwise known as the Quebec/Labrador peninsula. They had neither been consulted prior to, nor mentioned in, the announcement. "That the Provincial government should transfer land and that the Federal government should make it available to other countries for military purposes without notifying the rightful owners, is a flagrant violation of the rights of the Innu people." said a press release from **Project North** a national organization formed by 9 Canadian churches to represent native concerns.

The federal announcement came as no surprise to those who attended the Innu Assembly in Sheshatshit (20 miles from the base) in May, as two of us from Halifax, myself on behalf of the **Quaker Committee on Native Concerns** and Andrea Currie from **DEVERICE**, were privileged to do. The gathering was called to protest the increasing invasion of the lives of the Innu, by the low-flying, high-speed jets from the base that terrorize these people on their ancient hunting grounds. The Assembly was composed of chiefs and elders flown in from Davis Inlet, LaRomaine, Mingan, Natshquan and St. Augustine, to join the Natives of Sheshatshit.

The tales that emerged from the Assembly were graphic and powerful: jets, sometimes in pairs, zero in on hunting camps, at 600 miles per hour often only 100 - 200 feet high and as often as 12 times in 2 hours; children and old people are traumatized, throwing themselves on the ground, running into the woods, jumping into the water from their canoes. No warning no escape. The smelly exhaust ripples tents and water and shrivels trees: a 16 ft. high communications radio antenna had even been broken off. The **Department of National Defence** itself admits that the F-4 Phantom 11 of West Germany emits a noise level of 110-126 decibles, the pain threshold for most people. (In the U.S., it is illegal to market stereo equipment which produces more than 110 dB maximum, at a distance of 6 feet from the speaker.) Ears hurt and ring for hours, we were told.



The environment is no less disturbed. An oily slick, like paint, is left on drinking water, and fish, beaver and muskrat are found dead for no apparent reason. Animals caught for food and fur are often thin these days and under-weight. The caribou, a near sacred animal in Innu culture, have been diverted from ancient migratory pathways. They have been driven far north and their calving grounds have been disrupted. In a CBC interview last fall, Howard Mercer, a bush pilot with the Goose Bay Air Services, confirmed the problem of the growing caribou scarcity: hunters he transports usually bring 600-800 caribou a year from the barrens, where the animals feed on the plentiful caribou moss and lichen; last year they brought out only 5. "No question but that it is the flying activity" he said. Even the caribou on which we feasted at the Assembly had to be flown in from Davis Inlet, many miles up the northeast coast of Labrador.

THE INVADERS

Who are these invaders from the skies? The **Royal** (British) and **Canadian Air Forces** have been conducting low-level training flights in the area since 1979, with West German's **Luftwaffe** (Air Force) and the American **USAF** joining them in 1980. In 1983, West Germany signed a 10 year agreement with the Canadian government, under which air space was rented for 25 million Deutschmarks a year, and that country's warplanes were given permission to drop bombs. Since then the problem has heightened dramatically. In 1984, 300 NATO airmen were stationed at the base,, and as many as 1,500 airborne sorties were being made a day.

The problems this creates were also addressed by several non-native resource people who attended the Innu Assembly in May, including Peter Chapman of Project Ploughshares, Mel Watkins of the University of Toronto and John Dillion of Gatt-fly, an inter-church social justice organization. Low-level flying in general, they explained on the second day of the gathering, and especially the RAF **Tornado** jets being used in Labrador, are part of the new "Deep Strike" NATO offence strategy. Many people fear that this new strategy threatens to lower the threshold of nuclear war. Pilots are being trained to fly in all weather conditions and at night, underflying radar and with ther capacity to aim and drop conventional or nuclear bombs without being able to see their targets. The Tornado, in fact, is essentially a *manned cruise missile*.

The Labrador testing ranges cover 2 great areas, the size of New Brunswick, located north and south of Goose Bay/Happy Valley. These areas have been chosen because the land is flat with great open spaces, is "uninhabited" from the military's point of view, and because it approximates the terrain of Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union.

THE INNU OF NTESINAN

The **Innu** are not Canadians, Newfoundlanders, nor Labradorians; they are not really **Neskapi** (barren people), nor **Montagnais** (mountain people), they are not even **Indians**, they say. All these they reject as white men's labels and concepts,, just as the Inuit reject the word 'Eskimo'. They are the Innu, the first, the original people of Canada, with their own language, culture, territories and rights.

Though blanket claims to native lands in Canada have been made by both England and France on various occasions over the last three centuries, the whole question of land entitlement remained unknown to the Innu until Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949. The Innu, who have never signed treaty rights regarding their land, were left out of the Confederation negotiations between Newfoundland, Labrador and Canada in 1949. Not officially declared as "Indians" at that time, they are thus not entitled to such special federal benefits as free medical and dental care, free education, and special housing programmes. Left dependent on the province, with both their people and their land artificially divided between Labrador and Quebec, the 36 years since Confederation have seen the Innu faced with the ongoing, immediate threat of assimilation. At first, in the 1950's they were required to leave their children in village boarding schools to learn white man's "superior" ways: a few were even sent to high school in St. John's, 1000 miles away. In 1962, families were forced to move from the wilderness into ticky-tacky box houses in order to keep their children in school ten months of the year so they could qualify for benefits from the Newfoundland government. Today, they exist almost entirely on welfare; their traditional social structure is in a state of disintegration; and the Innu people have been left without meaning or purpose.

The lumber company has leased or purchased their woods (from the government), and mandatory hunting and fishing licenses class them with the many outside sportsmen, commercial and private, who are encouraged to fly in and out of the bush with their trophies. Resentment rises, as the caribou, which the Innu respect above all else in their harvesting culture, are treated as fair game and therefore are fast disappearing. Conditions in the Innu villages, meanwhile - open sewers,, garbage heaps, one well for 45 houses, dirt and impetigo, alcoholism, family abuse and neglect - rival the poverty of the Third World. Drownings and suicides are 5 times the Canadian averages.

For over a decade, the Innu have combatted an increasing sense of despair with one thing: the return to the land, for three months, usually, in the spring, and three again in the fall. And this is the crux of the problem: because of the onslaught from the air, the adults no longer dare to leave the children alone with the elderly while they are hunting. The teachings of old skills and traditions to the children, as a result, is only one of the things that is being threatened.

Colonel John David, the Canadian Air Force Base Commander at Goose Bay, sees the problem as fairly simple. "If the people tell us where they are camping, we can avoid over-flying." he says. But Innu hunting patterns require frequent moves, with the adults travelling as far as ten miles from their base for weeks at a time. Nor do the Innu, as this point, trust the military with information as to the exact whereabouts of the hunters.

"Strange thing" says Peter Armitage, an anthropologist from Memorial University, "we treat artifacts and cultural traditions with great care and put them into museums and textbooks and libraries, but we allow the living people to come to the edge of cultural collapse." Armitage has been living and working out of Sheshatshit for some time. "The Innu people are an endangered species," he says.

But they are fighting back. On November 22, 1977, they presented a formal declaration of Independence and Proposed Agreement to the Government of Canada and to the Queen; in 1978 they did the same to the Province of Quebec. In the fall of 1983, several Innu journeyed to West Germany and the Netherlands where they spoke to many church groups and from numerous public platforms. Great interest was shown in their cause. After all, the West German **Green Party** had succeeded in having low-level flying banned over the **Black Forest** - they sent one of their elected officials, Rainer Wagner, to the Assembly in Sheshatshit this year. In 1984, the Innu launched a nation-wide Canadian appeal with a large public meeting in Toronto. On the issue of the lack of guarantees for their aboriginal rights in the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, they have appealed to the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and also to the World Council of Indiginous peoples. For the Innu are well aware that their unique problem is part of a world-wide trespass and land-grab of aboriginal territory and resources - whether the issue is oil pipelines in the northwest, lumbering in B.C. , mercury pollution at Grassy Narrows, or, closer to home the flooding of 2,700 square miles of rich Innu hunting and fishing grounds by the hydro-electric development at Churchill Falls in the 1970's.

PUBLIC INQUIRY

No public inquiry or full environmental, health and socio-economic impact study has ever been conducted into the low-flying test flights in Labrador, although this

is required under Newfoundland law. The provincial government says it is finalizing a study, reportedly at a cost of $100,000, to
examine the effects of low-level flying on caribou, to be funded under the Coastal Labrador Agreement - monies originally allocated to the natives and non-natives of Labrador for up-grading housing, sanitation and health care in their communities. Wildlife biologists at the provincial and federal levels insist that such a study must be both in-depth and long-term --at least of five years' duration.

A health study on the issue has also been announced recently by the Newfoundland and Labrador Department of Health, but the study has been criticized as too piecemeal in its scope and as insufficiently independent. Peter Fenwick, leader of the provincial NDP and an MHA in the Newfoundland Assembly, has called for a full public inquiry rather than the ad hoc studies that have been so far announced. "An independent group of scientific specialists would give the studies conducted under the **Environmental Assessment Act** come degree of objectivity and credibility." he said. He also holds that the costs of this lengthy study should not be borne by the taxpayers , but by the proponent, the would-be user, the NATO countries. In fact, the West German government, in its 1983 agreement on Goose Bay, stated its intention to "assume appropriate financial responsibility for environmental studies and projects as required under Canadian law".

MILITARY SPENDING

And what of the communities of Goose Bay/Happy Valley, promised jobs, security and a projected annual income of $66 million as a result of the military presence under the Rehabilitation Plan? With the exceptions of some courageous ministers in area churches, some local citizens , and the forthright **Concerned Citizens for Nuclear Disarmament** group, active in the shadow of the base, most nearby residents regard the natives with prejudice,, suspicion and hostility. Colonel David of the Airbase was "too busy" to come to the Sheshatshit Assembly and the local press was scornful, accusing outside "foreigners" and "communists" of instigating trouble. **Greenpeace** was even blamed - an organization rejected completely by the Innu for its anti-trapping, whaling and seal hunt efforts.

But one question still remains. Does military investment lead to a more stable, long-term economy, or does it not? After 45 years, the community of Goose Bay leaves us likely to conclude the latter. Goose Bay is still completely dependent on the military, and no government seems to have a solution to its plight except more military spending. Much of the incoming money for the projected military expansion will be spent on fuel and planes, not job creation; there is no shortage of studies showing that military spendiong is a highly inefficient way to go about creating jobs and an economic base.

More importantly, the decisions on the future of Goose Bay are defining national principles. The protest against low-level flights in Labrador is only part of the larger battle against the militarization that is increasingly wrapping its tentacles around us: the **Pratt-Whitney** move in near Halifax, the new **Litton** expansion into Nova Scotia, the **Pentagon** business contracts, rumours of nuclear missile storage, nuclear subs and Navy exercises in Halifax harbour, the expansion of the **North Warning System**, including radar stations powered by nuclear plants in Labrador, **Star Wars** ..... Who among us feels themselves made more secure by these developments, or by the prospect of a major NATO military move-in in our own Maritime backyard? It brings to mind John Crosbie's understatement of the year: "Of course, the Goose Bay Rehabilitation Plan carries with it some change ..."

Oops -- there goes the neighbourhood.

By Betty Peterson to **New Maritimes**, Nov/85

Further information on the campaign against the militarization of Ntesinan can be obtained from:

DEVERIC (the Development Education Resource &Information Centre), 1649 Barrington St., PO Box 3460, Halifax NS , R3J 3J1

The Native Support Group of Newfoundland & Labrador, PO Box 582, Station C, St. Johns, Newfoundland, A1C 5K8

The Native Support Group of Nova Scotia, 6517 Coburg Rd., Halifax, N.S. B3J 2A6

The Innu Campaign Against the Militarization of Ntesinan can be contacted c/o David Nuke,Sheshatshit, Labrador, A0P 1M0

If you're interested in joining the growing campaign against weapons testing in Canada in general and the proposed NATO base in Labrador in particular, the **Alliance for Non-Violent Action** is organizing some form of resistance in Southern Ontario and Quebec including fall actions. For more info, write to the campaign c/o **Reality Now.**

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Suicides per 100,000 population:

AGE GROUP	INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
5 - 14 years	10.0	0.2
15 - 24 years	130.0	19.0
25 - 34 years	70.0	20.0
35 - 44 years	39.0	21.0

For all age groups combined the number of Indian suicides per 100,000 population is 3 times the Canadian average.

Juvenile delinquency rate per 100,000 population:

INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
353	128

Deaths per thousand population by age group (1973 - 1976 average):

AGE GROUP	INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
1 - 4 years	3.1	0.8
5 - 19 years	1.9	0.7
20 - 44 years	6.0	1.5
49 - 64 years	15.7	9.0
65 and over	57.0	55.0

Except for those over 65 (everyone has to die sometime) Indian death rates range from 2 to 4 times the Canadian average.

Violent deaths per 100,000 population:

CAUSE	INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
Motor vehicle	60.5	26.9
Burns & fire	23.6	3.5
Poisoning, overdose	14.9	3.0
Suicides	30.1	12.1
Other violent deaths	91.3	26.4

Hospital admissions per 100,000 population:

ILLNESS	INDIAN	NON-INDIAN
Infectious and parasitic disease	3,700	400
Diseases of the nervous system	2,100	500
Diseases of the respiratory system	10,800	1,900
Diseases of the digestive system	2,600	1,800
Childbirth and complications of pregnancy	8,000	4,300
Accidents and violence	6,000	1,400

THE MARION CONTROL UNIT

Marion, the most maximum security prison in the country, is the experimental laboratory and trendsetter for the entire prison system. Here, the Bureau of Prisons established the **Control Unit**-- a prison within a prison, where prisoners have been subjected to sensory deprivation and solitary confinement. In the early years at Marion, prison officials experimented with the use of drugs on Control Unit prisoners. Marion also uses **boxcars** -- small, enclosed, lightproof and soundproof boxes in which prisoners are placed -- as a means of psychological torture.

In October 1983, two guards were killed in isolated incidents by two prisoners. Although there was no prison riot, authorities seized this opportunity to violently repress the entire prison population. They turned the prison into one huge Control Unit. Since that date, the 350 men imprisoned at Marion have experienced brutal, de-humanizing conditions:

For 23 hours a day, prisoners are locked into individual cells, denied contact with each other and forced into total idleness.

During the initital stages of the lockdown, 60 guards equipped with riot gear were shipped in from other prisons, and assisted Marion guards in systematically beating approximately 100 handcuffed and defenseless prisoners.

All Control Unit prisoners are subjected to humiliating finger probes of the rectum every time they leave the unit for a court date, hospital visit, etc.

All contact visits were ended -- no prisoner can touch or be touched by parents, wives, children.

Prison authorities shut down work programs, group educational activities and congregational religious services.

In its efforts to justify its actions, the Bureau of Prisons tries to perpetuate the myth that Marion contains "the most vicious, predatory prisoners in the system." The fact is that the criteria for placement at Marion are intentionally vague, and that 80% of the men there are eligible for placement at less restrictive prisons. Although some of the more infamous felons are placed at Marion, the prison also houses people sentenced to short terms for victimless crimes and people imprisoned for their political beliefs and activities.

In fact, the Marion control unit was never really designed to contain "vicious, predatory prisoners." The Bureau of Prisons established the Control Unit in July 1972, in response to a peaceful prisoner protest against the guard beating of a Mexican prisoner. About 60 prisoners were placed in isolated, sensory deprivation cells. With the Marion Control Unit, prison officials hoped to extinguish their spirit of protest, resistance and solidarity.

As predicted from its inception, the Control Unit produces in prisoners feelings of intense rage and helplessness that are inevitably expressed in violence -- either against themselves or against others. Over the years, many prisoners have committed suicide or have turned on other prisoners or guards. Since the entire prison was locked down in 1983, three prisoners have been killed by other prisoners. The Marion prison lockdown is a bloody failure -- it promotes the very violence it claims to be trying to prevent.

Top prison officials have made it clear they intend to permanently maintain the lockdown status, in spite of Congressional and church inquiries, and a class action lawsuit by the prisoners.

LEXINGTON: CONTROL UNIT FOR WOMEN

Taking lessons learned from Marion, the Bureau of Prisons is building a maximum security unit for women prisoners in the **Lexington, Kentucky Federal Prison.** It will reside in the basement of a high security building, totally separate from the rest of the prison.

What do we expect this new Control Unit to look like? Although the Lexington unit won't open for several months, we can get some idea by looking at a previous effort by the government to set up a Control Unit. In 1984, the Bureau of Prisons attempted to set up a maximum security unit at the **Alderson, West Virginia Federal Prison for Women.** Its purpose was to isolate and demoralize **Lucy Rodriguez** and **Haydee Torres**, both Puerto Rican prisoners of war.

Lucy and Haydee were placed in individual isolated cells. The furniture in the cells was bolted down, and the windows were translucent, making it impossible to make out figures or shapes. Each cell had a speaker that served both to broadcast messages and to eavesdrop on the prisoners activity. When the cell doors were closed, the cells became soundproof, lightproof little boxes.

This constitutes sensory deprivation -- the same kind inflicted on hundreds of men at Marion Prison. Research carried out by the **CIA** and by **Nazi Germany** indicated that people could be broken when denied contact with other people and sensory stimulation. Light, sounds and smells tell one what day it is, what is going on, etc. By shutting out all normal input, the prisoner becomes disoriented, can lose his or her sanity, perhaps become suicidal.

In the case of the maximum security unit at Alderson, West Virginia, th government did not succeed. Public pressure won out: Massive letter-writing and phone call campaigns, a church delegation sent into the prison and a large, spirited demonstration held at the gates of Alderson Prison forced the government to close down the unit. Haydee and Lucy moved back into general population.

The Lexington maximum security unit -- scheduled to open this year -- will be the first Control Unit that is built explicitly for women. In the interim, the Bureau of Prisons has set up "ad hoc" Control Units for women, as in a federal jail in **Tucson, Arizona**, where political prisoner **Susan Rosenberg** and Puerto Rican prisoner of war **Alejandrina Torres** are currently under close confinement and isolation.

PRISONS AND SOCIETY

Fyodor Dostoevsky once wrote that to understand a society, one should look within its prisons. What does a glimpse behind US prison walls tell us about our society?

From 1980-1984, the prison population grew by 36%, to about 1/2 million people. By the year 2000, there will be an estimated one million people in prison -- with the same strikingly disproportionate number of Black, Native American and Latino prisoners.

A growing disparity exists in this country between those who enjoy a comfortable life and those who must struggle to survive. It is these "have-nots" who fill the US prisons. The society that delivers such a disproportionate number of Third World people to prison doors is one that has produced a generation of Black and poor youth -- 75% of whom are unemployed, who are trapped in deteriorating public housing projects, who drop out of schools at alarming rates, who lose their lives to drugs, crime, and violence.

Seen together, this set of conditions seem genocidal. In part of its definition of genocide, the **United Nations** includes "deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or part."

Through its actions, the US makes a clear statement: It will not grant Third World and poor people their human rights. It will not provide them with job opportunities, places to learn, or medical care. It *will*, however, spend billions of dollars to build bigger and more repressive prisons -- prisons which are certain to house the swelling number of unemployed Black, Third World and poor people.

What makes this government's program for social "stability" work? **Law and order. The death penalty. More** prisons. **More** police. In the 1980's, prisons no longer pretend to rehabilitate -- they are simply **warehouses.** While prisons spend money on more guard towers, barbed wire, and new maximum security units, they cut the educational/vocational programs. The message is that crime is caused by bad individuals. Will society be healed by caging and electrocuting them? Attention turns away from the social, political and economic roots of crime. Instead, the individual is blamed -- and since most of the blame is directed toward Black people, this leads to the criminalization of an entire people.

If prisons reflect the structure of society, they also reflect the nature of movements for social change. In the sixties, as the **Civil Rights and Black Power** movements grew, the number of Black political prisoners swelled and the prison struggle became a major part of the Black liberation struggle. Political prisoners like **George Jackson** stated clearly that prisons are an important tool in the government's effort to contain and destroy Black people's freedom.

Although the government refuses to admit it, there are nearly 200 political prisoners and prisoners of war in US prisons today. They come from the Puerto Rican, Black/New Afrikan and Native American liberation movements. They include progressive Christians, white anti-imperialists, draft resisters, grand jury resisters. The movements that these people come from honor, love, and respect them. Yet the government contends that they are criminals or terrorists. Although the government denies the existence of political prisoners in this country, it often reserves the harshest treatment for these very people. Control Units are designed to break every prisoner's spirit. In the case of political prisoners and prisoners of war, the Control Units are part of a calculated strategy to weaken these movements and to intimidate others from taking a stand.

PRISONS AND THE MOVEMENT

Since prisons reflect both the structure of society and the nature of the struggle against that structure, when we work to minimize the brutality of the prison system, we simultaneously work to support those like political prisoners and prisoners of war who have been a dynamic catalyst in the movement for a changed, humane society.

It may be that very few of us will go to prison or even know someone who goes to prison so it may not be apparent why we should do prisoner support work. But if we are to be part of the solution, and not part of the problem, we must fight against these racist warehouses. Only by dealing with these stark realities, only by making these kinds of sacrifices, can we build a movement that will some day be an alternative to this system and its repression.

TURN KNOWLEDGE INTO ACTION

The wall of silence around prisons will work only if we let it -- out of sight, out of mind. Historically, most of us have become aware of prisons only after some

terrible, violent event occurs, such as after the 1971 National Guard massacre of 41 prisoners who rebelled at **Attica Prison** against racist and oppressive conditions. Yet, right now, and for the past two and a half years, the prisoners at Marion have been experiencing physical and psychological violence on a daily basis. Many of us now know about these conditions. The question is, what will we do with this awareness? As **Rafael Cancel Miranda** admonished us at a conference about Marion Prison a few months ago, "we cannot just feel bad or sad, *we must do something* . We would rather work on the side of the battle for justice than sit idly by as others wage the battle for us.

COMMITTEE TO END THE
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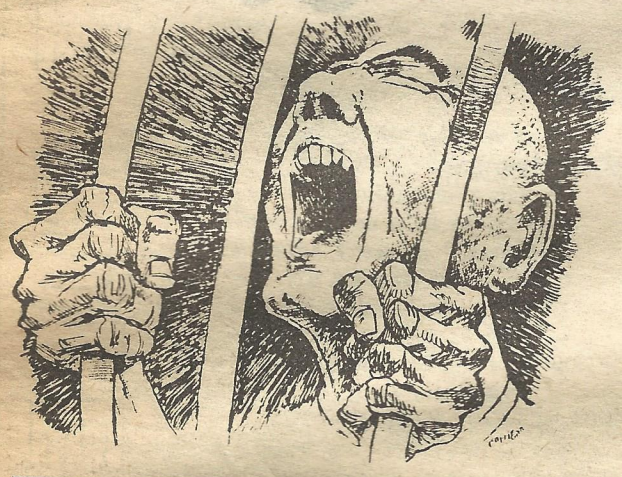


1000 DEMONSTRATE TO SHUT DOWN "MAXI-MAXI" PRISONS

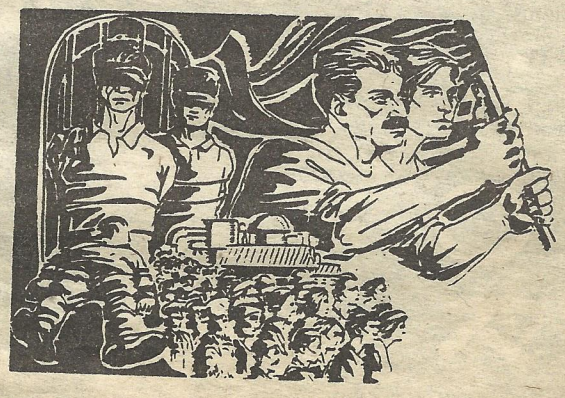
At the gates of 6 U.S. prisons and in San Juan, Puerto Rico, over 1000 people demonstrated on April 19-27 to stop the lockdown at Marion and to stop the Control Units at Marion and Lexington Fed. prisons. The demonstrations, sponsored by the **National Committee to Defend New Afrikan Freedom Fighters** and the **National Committee to Free Puerto Rican prisoners of War**, brought Black/New Afrikans, Puerto Ricans and North Americans together around ten demands to stop attacks against political prisoners and POWs, and the use of prisons as a tool to terrorize third world communities.

Marion Prison has been locked down for two years; prisoners must spend 23 hours per day sealed into their cells, with no access to any human contact. The prison administration has settled into what equals a permanent control unit -- their term for a unit which carries out behaviour modification techniques against prisoners who they can not break -- for all the prisoners at Marion. Lexington, a minimum security prison until now, has built a new maximum control unit for 16 women in the basement of the facility. Already designated for Lexington's "Maxi-control unit" are Puerto Rican POW **Alejandrina Torres** and North American anti-imperialist fighter, **Susan Rosenberg**.

Demonstrators chanting "Stop the Marion Lockdown -- Shut down the Control Units!" and "Free All Political Prisoners and POWs!", were met by armed guards at each prison. At Tucson, where Alejandrina and Susan are now being held, **Rev. Jose Torres** spoke to the demonstrators about Alejandrina, and she was intervied by the media actually inside the prison.

At the MCC in NY, 400 demonstrators assembled where the **Puerto Rican Independence 16** (activists who were arrested on August 30 and in April of this year and accused of conspiracy in relation to the **Macheteros**, a clandestine independence group -- they will be on trial in Hartford, Conn.) and many North American anti-imperialist prisoners are held. In a letter 19 North American prisoners stated, "We represent different aspects of the progessive movements (including Plowshares women jailed for actions against the US war machine, grand jury resisters, anti-imperialist resistance fighters and supporters.) We are united in fighting against heightening political repression ... our commitment is to the development of a free and democratic society with an end to war, colonialism, racism and sexism. We believe in justice, and not in laws used to carry out repression and inhumanity."

At Lexington, the presence of the demonstration forced the jailers to admit to the media that the "maxi-control" unit is ready and waiting for women POWs and political prisoners. The Puerto Rican POW, **Ida Luz Rodriguez** sent a message to explain some of why this is happening now. "Captured freedom fighters the world over are subjected to illegal detention, trials and imprisonment -- many in specifically designed high-security units. Torture, negation of our political and human identity, isolation, sensory deprivation and denial of adequate medical attention are weapons used by imperialism in all corners of the earth -- including here in the US ... Can you allow this to continue?"



A LETTER FROM LEONARD TATE

Dear Friends,

The only thing I can possibly say in my defense is that when I wrote to **Black Flag** about the status of Anarchist Publications in North America I was totally unaware of the existence of **Reality Now**. So, when I received Kevin and Jim's letters, as well as issues 4&5 of **RN**, I realized the mistake that I had made. As you are somewhat new on the scene (and remember that it takes a while for anything to penetrate into prison), I hope you'll forgive my small transgression.

It may also interest you to know that as a result of my letter to **BF** I received a number of letters from European A's, as well as several European @ publications; you, however, are the only ones in North America to contact me in either respect (which certainly says a lot more about **RN** and the group who puts it all together.) Could it be that hardly anyone over here reads **BF**; or did my complaints (with the possible exception of **RN**) ring too true for any comment?

I am certainly glad that you decided to send me both issues 4&5, so that I could read the two part historical account of the Metis resistance movement, which I was previously unaware of. (Interestingly enough, being a crossword puzzle addict, I thought it rather intriguing that Louis Riel was one of the answers!) In reading the account, I was forced to see the similarities with how Native Americans have been oppressed on this side of the border throughout history and especially now with regard to the Navajo and Hopi struggle at Big Mountain that is fast approaching a possibly disastrous day. The present American state has shown itself only too willing to ruthlessly crush any group worldwide that it deems to be in defiance of its rule; and there is little reason to believe that the state would be adverse to employing such tactics at home. The American people are, for the most part, kept so totally in the dark about what is really going on, even in their own backyard, that whatever happens next month, I fear there will be only a minimal outcry from the general public.

Yes, I would very much appreciate being placed on your mailing list. Luckily, I only have about one more year to spend in the state's dungeons, at which time I will gladly become a paying subscriber and contributor. One aspect of **RN** and other @ publications that I have noticed is the dearth of photographic pictorials to accompany articles. Not being conversant with the technicalities of publication, is this due to a lack of material or are there other causes? I am curious because as a photographer, I am interested in the demand for photographs. Additionally, I've been encouraged in other quarters to do a bit of writing, but I am only too aware that we have become creatures most attuned to the visual. So, if I should choose to do so (and providing that I could be as competent at the one as I am at the other), I would want to combine the two media if at all possible. Your opinion, whatever, in this regard would prove to be most helpful.

Finally, I recently received a letter from a fellow @ in Greece with news you might have use for in future publication. According to Panajiotis Kalamares, soon after the Chernobyl mishap, Greek anarchists called for a demonstration in the centre of Athens. The state prohibited any demonstrations, however, and the police attacked the people, beating them and arresting 11. Following soon thereafter, another demonstration was called for by leftists and ecologists, which again resulted in fights between anarchists and the police. Two police motorcycles were burnt and the police arrested 40, with 13 of them now being held in prison under heavy charges. Not unexpectedly, the state seeks to repress anarchists, but without much success since the movement is more spontaneous than organized. Nevertheless, the movement is quite strong in Greece, with considerable influence, especially among the young people, who resist the brutality of state power with all of their energy. Surprisingly, the 13 prisoners now facing heavy charges are the first political prisoners since the socialists assumed control in 1981.

Again, thank you for your letters, and most of all for **RN**; I look forward to a fruitful future for all of us.

Yous in Solidarity,
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P.S
Recently, a friend wrote to ask why everyone wasn't an anarchist. I'm still trying to come up with a plausible response. It is more than I comprehend, however, why anyone would choose to be a slave rather than to be truly free.

NOTE: Just to respond to your question about photographs, we don't print many ourselves partly because of a lack of photographers who submit pictures, but mostly because of a lack of money. We can't afford to send photographers on scene, obviously, and even if we could, each photograph costs money to prepare for printing. Without going into details about the printing process, what it comes down to is that with a bit more money we could afford to use more pictu es ... so if anyone out there is just dying to see live photos in RN, feel free to send either your photos or your money.

As for why anyone would choose to be a slave, we have no idea.

Vancouver Five Benefit Tape

Lillian Allen, a locally well known dub poet, has put out a benefit tape for the Five (minus one).Two songs are included: 'Curfew in B.C.', and 'The Five' which includes amongst its poetical lyrics writings from Ann Hansen. The tape has approximately twenty minutes of music. Cost is four dollars.

Copies can be obtained from
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